Hafa Adai!

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DPS to send pictures of Marpi remains to Guam. PAGE 2

Burglars ransack home under construction. PAGE 3

10 businesses issued warning letters for banner sign violations

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Ten business establishments were issued warning letters yesterday for banner signs that violate the Saipan Zoning Law, but one of the business owners said he will contest the warning letter given to his club.

Zoning administrator Steve Tilley, in an interview at his office, said the initial inspections conducted yesterday morning resulted in the issuance of 10 warning letters to businesses in Dandan, As Lito and Koblerville.

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'Place CUC under receivership'

> I think it's about time that we said, 'OK, this is really beyond the capacity of the local government to resolve on our own.'
>
> —Rep. Tina Sablan

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Rep. Tina Sablan has asked the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to push the U.S. District Court to appoint a receiver for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

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Ill worker dies, two days after leaving Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Going back home was probably Geraldine Amor's last wish before she passed away in Manila yesterday morning, two days after she left Saipan where she worked for five years, according to her aunt, Remy Amor.

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Asiana named 2009 Airline of the Year

ASIANA AIRLINES

Asiana Airlines was chosen as the Airline of the Year by Air Transport World, ATW, the world's most prestigious air transport magazine.

The Airline of the Year award is given to a major or large international airline

See ASIANA on Page 4

BEATING THE DEADLINE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

People wait in line to beat yesterday's deadline for filing the 2008 fourth quarter tax returns at the Division of Revenue and Taxation in Dandan.

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
If the gubernatorial elections were held today, who of the five who have already expressed their intention to run will you vote for?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

126 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Halftime Show
Bruce Springsteen gave the Super Bowl crowd and the millions watching on TV what he promised them: a high-energy show.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Signature Streep
Did Rudy Giuliani influence Meryl Streep's portrayal of conservative avenging nun Sister Aloysius in "Doubt"?

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Local

Teachers spend Super Bowl Monday in trainings

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

While majority watched and cheered for their favorite teams in Super Bowl XLIII, public school educators opted to enrich themselves yesterday by holding a whole-day professional development training in their campuses.

Nearly 5,000 students in middle and secondary schools took a break yesterday after PSS decided to schedule the school system-wide professional development training in both divisions.

"Super Bowl" is a nonholiday event for the CNMI.

Saipan Tribune learned the PSS decision to schedule trainings during the occasion was due to the "significant drop" in the attendance of students during the sports event.

As early as 9am, many students were seen gathering in restaurants where they can watch and cheer for their teams.

Yesterday, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan was seen focused on her duties. She spent three hours meeting with members of the PSS student council at the Education Board's conference room where they discussed plans for a proposed youth summit.

Sablan was also set to attend some schools' professional development training yesterday.

PSS records based on the Facts & Figures for the school year 2009 indicated that there are over 3,000 high school students and nearly 2,000 middle school enrollees.

Classes at public elementary schools, however, continued yesterday. PSS has over 5,000 Kindergarten to sixth grade students.

During the mostly half-day instruction for teachers and employees, many schools were taught the latest system software being used in recording attendance and calculating students' grade.

Experts from the PSS central office were some of the guest speakers in yesterday's professional development training.

At Marianas High School, principal Karen Borja said that about 60 personnel attended yesterday's training.

The school has also scheduled two succeeding Saturdays, Feb. 7 and 14, for employees who were not able to make it yesterday.

Two important topics were discussed during the professional development at MHS: the "portfolio" and the "breaking ranks" projects.

Borja said the school started its portfolio project since September.

"The idea is to teach all our students and require them to prepare a portfolio of their resume…which is a great preparation for our graduating high school students," Borja told *Saipan Tribune*.

MHS is home to a number of vocational and technical courses for its students.

Another project is being developed at MHS—"breaking ranks."

"The project is…a process for continuous improvement in high schools. Our objective is to develop an action plan for all PSS goals and the wellness policy," Borja said.

At Saipan Southern High School, all 41 staffers attended the hands-on training and exercises yesterday.

Vice principal Craig Garrison said employees were also asked on their personal assessment and evaluation of the professional development lessons they gained.

Most sessions begun at 8am and lasted until 3pm.

At Kagman High School, the half-day event tackled proper classroom management for teachers.

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CLASS VALEDICTORIAN FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Kenneth Teregeyo Taitingfong holds up the trophy he got after being named the Class Valedictorian during the 10th Ports Police graduation at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Friday.

DPS to send pictures of Marpi remains, other items to Guam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau will be sending to Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola the photos of the skeletal remains that were found in Marpi last Jan. 24.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that the officer-in-charge informed her that photographs of the remains and some pieces of evidence will be forwarded to Guam for Espinola to review.

Ogumoro said CIB investigators want to know Espinola's opinion on the cause of death.

As to the identification of the remains, CIB's acting commander, Sgt. Sylvan Rangamar, said yesterday that he has not received any update from the officer in charge of the case.

Rangamar told *Saipan Tribune* last week that the remains are "presumptive positive" as of that of missing Filipino surveyor, Alex M. Matubis, based on the driver's license and wedding ring recovered from the remains.

Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch stated last week that the Attorney General's Office would consult Espinola to determine the cause of death.

Even though it's been reported that the remains are just bones, Lynch said that would not end the inquiry.

"There's still a lot of scientific examination that is possible. So once we get some facts from DPS, we will consult with [Espinola] regarding what's the next best step in the investigation," Lynch said.

Saipan Tribune learned that the remains are being secured in the CIB's evidence room while investigation is still ongoing.

The 47-year-old Matubis has been reported missing since July 30 last year. His company pickup truck was found abandoned near Kalabera Cave last Aug. 19.

The remains were found near a cow fence in a secluded farm that is located about a 10-minute drive west of Kalabera Cave, according to DPS.

Committee backs Flame Sako lease

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Despite earlier concerns about the planned Flame Sako Resort in As Matius, a joint House and Senate committee is recommending the Legislature approve the 25-year land lease for the multi-million dollar resort.

After looking at a draft lease, some members of the Legislature had questions, such as financing sources, and whether work can begin within six months after the lease is signed, said Rep. Ramon Tetuteb, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources. But after meeting with Department of Public Lands Secretary John S. Del Rosario about issues relating to the project, the committee is recommending the lease be approved.

Under the NMI Constitution, the Legislature in a joint session must approve any land lease that is more than five hectares.

According to the resolution, the proposed development, which is estimated to carry a price tag of $50 to $60 million, will contribute substantially to the future economy of Saipan because it will provide jobs, open a wide-range of service-oriented businesses and bring economic development to the CNMI. Testimony received during a public hearing was generally positive, the resolution stated.

Under the lease, Flame Sako would pay DPL $52,320 for the first year. The amount would increase to $78,840 by the fifth year of the lease. The alternative would be to pay 3 percent of the gross receipts. After the initial five years, the company must pay based on a percentage of the fair market value. In the sixth year, the resort's owners must pay 4 percent of the fair market value or 3 percent of the gross receipts. By the end of the lease period, Flame Sako must pay 8 percent of the fair market value or 3 percent of the gross receipts—whichever is greater.

The company has until April 30 to secure financing for the project. Within six months of the lease being approved, permits for the development must be obtained and construction must begin.

Also, the resort must sell 10 percent of its corporate shares to the people of the CNMI through a public offering and maintain at its own cost any historic or archeological objects on site. Moreover, Flame Sako must construct public access areas to the shoreline along its premises. The boundaries of the hotel along PauPau Beach were a concern among some community members, Tetuteb earlier said.

The 357-room resort covering 109,003 square meters will include hotel rooms, villas, a convention center, sea restaurant, water park, marine port and yacht basin.

Home under construction ransacked by burglars

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Burglars ransacked over the weekend a house in As Perdido that is undergoing construction and stole numerous items belonging to the residence's contractor.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that the suspect or suspects stole mostly brand new items such as various materials, appliances, and fixtures owned by the homeowner.

Stolen items also included hand tools, power tools, and equipment belonging to the contractor, Vargas Corp.

Ogumoro said that, on Saturday at 7:55am a burglary and theft incident at a house in As Perdido was reported to DPS.

Preliminary investigation showed that an employee of Vargas Construction came to the job site at 7:15am and noticed that the door of a 20-foot container and the door of the house have been broken into.

Upon investigation, the employee discovered that the container and the house had been burglarized and various items were stolen. Police were called.

Police found out that the lock of the container was cut and the main door of the house was broken into.

Ogumoro said the construction site was last secured Friday.

Items taken from the house included a Staccato Double Bowl kitchen sink, a Hamilton DC kit without spray satin faucet, two pieces of chrome shower faucets, two pieces of closet organizers, three pieces of oil-rubbed bronze finial rod, three pieces of handle bath faucets, Belden I H T/S faucet, four pieces of outside lightings Westinghouse Fashion, three pieces of wall or column lightings, one ceiling fan for the screened porch, and assorted door locks, knobs and hardware.

The house owner's items that were stolen from the container were an Upright Freezer (in box), 5,700 watts generator 10-HP Yamaha, a sprinkler pump, 3.6 cubic feet refrigerator, Brinkman four-burner grill, a complete set of toilet bowl, and Desert Sand Sun Shade.

The contractor's belongings that were stolen from the house and container were a Makita table saw, a 5-ampere Makita circular saw, a David White level transit tripod, a 21-pound Makita demolition hammer, a yellow Dewalt hammer drill, green generator with two wheels, a yellow Dewalt drill, a green Black & Decker drill, red electric drill, electric steel cutter saw/miter, a red and black 5-speed mountain bike, assorted plumbing fittings, a pail of assorted mason hand tools, a pail of assorted carpentry hand tools, Makita grinder, three shovels, 19 pieces of GFCI outlets, and a bar clamp.

"DPS investigators are requesting the assistance of community members to please call the CIB at 664-9045/50 or Crime Stoppers if they have any information regarding this crime," Ogumoro said.

'Legislature should investigate Villagomez'

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

A CNMI lawmaker is once again calling for the creation of a committee to investigate whether there is cause for impeachment of Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez in light of several indictments filed against him.

Under Rep. Tina Sablan's resolution, the seven House members making up the proposed committee would look into the charges against Villagomez—conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government, wire fraud, theft concerning federal funds and bribery, as well as other allegations—and present a report of findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives on impeachment.

House Speaker Arnold Palacios would appoint the members and name the chairperson of the committee. Within 90 days the special investigative committee would submit the report detailing its findings and recommendations.

Last summer, Villagomez, along with his sister Joaquin Santos, and then-Commerce Secretary James Santos, were indicted on charges of bilking the CNMI out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving needless purchases of Rydlyme, a cleaning and de-scaling chemical, for CUC. In January additional bribery charges were filed against Villagomez, alleging that he accepted a $15,000 bribe from the Santos couple for approving the purchase of Rydlyme.

The most recent indictment is extremely difficult to ignore, Sablan said.

"Part of our jobs as legislators would be to investigate those allegations, and, if there is cause for impeachment, to move forward with that," she said.

Her resolution is not a call for impeachment, Sablan said, but simply a call to begin the process.

"We don't have to ask him to step down right away, although some of us may personally believe he should," she said. "But at the very least the ball should be rolling in terms of us doing a formal investigation."

The representative had called for Villagomez's resignation after his original indictment, but it was met with resistance by other legislators who felt the criminal process should first be resolved.

Sablan used the recent removal of Rob Blagojevich as Illinois governor as an example for her resolution, she said.

Last week Blagojevich was impeached and unanimously removed from office after several charges were filed against him, including solicitation of brides in exchange for Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat.

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IN FEDERALIZATION LAWSUIT

CNMI, US govt lawyers withdraw latest motions

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Lawyers for the CNMI and the federal government have amicably come to an agreement stemming from the United States filing a brief in the federalization lawsuit that was too long.

Lawyers for both parties have agreed that the United States will file a corrected brief and the CNMI will abandon its motion to strike the memorandum.

Last week, lawyers for the CNMI asked the Federal District Court in Washington, D.C. to dismiss the federal government's latest reply in the federalization lawsuit because a lawyer for the U.S. government filed a 33-page brief without first getting consent. The maximum page limit for such a brief is 25 pages.

Lawyers for the federal government at the time said filing the 33-page brief was a mistake made by the undersigned counsel, who consulted the page limit rules several weeks before and thought it was 35, not 25, according to the U.S.' reply. Lawyers for the U.S. did not realize the mistake until the CNMI filed their motion to strike, the motion stated.

However, the U.S. has asked the court to grant a page extension and accept the 33-page reply because, the lawyers said, the CNMI brought up additional arguments in their last reply that was not in the initial complaint.

The CNMI agreed to withdraw its motion to strike while the U.S. agreed to withdraw its opposition to motion to strike and request for additional pages.

Both parties also asked the court to set oral arguments in the case.

In September, lawyers for the CNMI filed the initial complaint against the federal government seeking to halt the implementation of U.S. immigration laws to the Commonwealth in June. The latest motion will be the U.S. government's second request for a motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

OUCH!
Addie Fabiana, 7, grimaces in pain as she gets a free flu shot from a volunteer nursing student of Emmanuel College during Saturday's health fair at the Garapan Fishing Base. The health fair, which drew hundreds of children and adults, wrapped up the Cervical Cancer Awareness and Prevention Month celebration.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

ASIANA

From Page 1

that over the years has exhibited outstanding performance in a number of airline disciplines.

Only one airline has been selected as the Airline of the Year every year since the first award in 1974 and has been the most coveted and competitive award by all the airlines in the world.

After 21 years of service, Asiana is the first Korean carrier to receive such an award.

The award will be presented on Feb. 17, 2009 in Washington, D.C., at ATW's gala awards dinner at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. Asiana president and chief operating officer Young-Doo Yoon will receive the award on behalf of the company.

Past winners of the Airline of the Year award are major airlines that reflect outstanding performance in all areas. There are four former winners from the Asian region: Singapore Airlines, All Nippon Airways, Cathay Pacific Airways and JAL.

For an airline to win this award it should have provided exemplary service to the public while upholding a model safety record, been innovative in developing new markets and services, been a leader in applying new technology to the airline industry, and been consistently profitable. Most winners of this award have won two or more ATW awards.

According to ATW, Asiana was recognized for its superb commitment to passenger safety and operational excellence as reflected in industry leading dispatch reliability and engine inflight shutdown rates. ATW's editors noted that Asiana's dedication to operating at the highest level of safety is matched by its devotion to superb customer service. Its designation as one of only a handful of 5-Star Airlines by Skytrax speaks to that commitment as do its significant investments in inflight services and amenities and cabin attendant training. ATW's editors also took account Asiana's financial performance, with aggregate earnings of $542 million between 2004 and 2007.

Since its foundation on Feb. 17 1988, Asiana Airlines has continuously upgraded its safety and services with the philosophy of "Customer satisfaction through superiority in safety and service." As a result, Asiana's service has been recognized as the best in many assessments done by Korean and foreign institutions.

For 45 years**,** *Air Transport World* of ATW Media Group has been the leading monthly magazine serving the needs of the global airline and commercial air transport manufacturing communities. Each month, 38,691 subscribers around the world look forward to reading up on the latest trends and developments affecting their businesses. Each year, ***ATW*** publishes as part of its July issue the *World Airline Report*, providing detailed fleet, financial and traffic information on more than 350 airlines as well as an overview of the key events and trends of previous 12 months. ATW also publishes *World Airport Report*, an extensive data-driven report examining the evolution of world airport traffic by region of the world and by type of airport (intercontinental hub, continental hub, regional platform). ***(Asiana)***

ILL

From Page 1

Geraldine Amor, who sought the local community's help to be able to return home due to a serious medical condition, passed away at 5:40am at the Manila Doctors Hospital yesterday (7:40am Saipan time). She was 35.

"She was happy when she got home [Saturday], according to relatives," Remy Amor said in Pilipino. "She died of complications from lupus."

Geraldine Amor had been ill for months until she was confined in the intensive care unit of the Commonwealth Health Center on Jan. 19. She was diagnosed with lupus, an auto-immune disease that can affect various parts of the body, including the skin, joints, heart, lungs, blood, kidneys, and brain.

"We are thankful to all the people who helped us to send her back home, including Mr. and Mrs. Rene Batallones who paid for the airfare," Remy Amor told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The Overseas Filipino Worker Support Group led by Carlito Marquez and the Marianas Association of Filipino Architects and Engineers led by Bong de Guzman led the fundraising for other expenses needed by the family of the patient. The groups also helped designate drop off points and contact persons for the donations.

"To all those who helped Geraldine, we are very thankful," said Marquez, adding that they are saddened by the patient's death.

Donations from the two groups and individual members of the community reached over $2,000, about half of which was sent back home with the patient while the remaining amount will be used to temporarily support the deceased's two sons who are on Saipan—a 1-year-old and a 3-year-old.

Geraldine Amor, along with medical escorts, left Saipan early Saturday morning and arrived in Manila around noon of the same day. She was transported immediately to the Manila Doctors Hospital where she died two days later.

She told *Saipan Tribune* on Jan. 21 that she's seeking the community's help because she had no money. Her contract was not renewed when it expired on Dec. 10 because of her medical condition.

PLACE

From Page 1

The move is necessary because CUC's problems are fundamental and systematic and cannot be resolved through conventional means, Sablan said.

"I think it's about time that we said, 'OK, this is really beyond the capacity of the local government to resolve on our own,'" she said. "And having a receiver who would be insulated from local politics and would be empowered under the close supervision of the court to do what is necessary and appropriate to bring CUC into compliance with these federal mandates and ultimately to improve these essential public services for the good of the CNMI."

The request comes as the comment period regarding stipulations compelling CUC to adhere to federal regulations governing water, sewer, power and fuel ends.

In November, DOJ and EPA filed a lawsuit against CUC accompanied by the two stipulations, which CUC executive director Antonio Muña and Gov. Benigno Fitial signed off on. The original 30-day comment period ended Dec. 2, but a request was made to extend it for another 30 days. The latest comment period ended Jan. 31.

The representative said her major concern is whether CUC can realistically meet the provisions necessary under the stipulations. If they are not met, CUC can be penalized up to $1,000 per day per violation for the first 30 days; $2,000 per day per violation following the 30 days; and $5,000 per day per violation for each day after.

It should be noted, Sablan said, that the latest orders are not the first time enforcement action has been taken against the utility agency.

"Though progress has been made toward compliance with federal mandates and improvements in services, such progress has been limited and sporadic," she said in her comments.

In July, when Fitial and Muña originally agreed to the orders, the governor said they had decided to tackle the issue head on.

"In the past people wanted to hide from bad news," Fitial said. "We decided to fix the problem instead."

Although the stipulations do not address Saipan's ongoing power crisis, it would be counterproductive to separate the power issues from its water, wastewater and used oil issues, he said.

Muña, CUC's executive director, had echoed this statement in the past. Without power, CUC cannot provide water or other basic necessities to the public

Sablan said she realizes the seriousness of her request for receivership.

"I make this request only after having carefully examined CUC's nearly 22 years of mismanagement, planning failures, noncompliance with both federal and local mandates, fiscal abuse, political meddling, and neglect—and the public health and environmental catastrophes, both real and threatened, that have resulted," she added. "It has become increasingly evident that CUC's problems are beyond the capacity of existing management at CUC, and of the present political leadership, to effectively resolve on their own."

Sablan noted that nearby Guam is also currently under a receivership.

Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. was appointed receiver to help the Guam government develop a sustainable waste management system after the government was unable to bring the Ordot dump into compliance with EPA regulations.

WARNING

From Page 1

More inspections will follow as the grace period for complying with the law passed on Jan. 31.

"If these businesses still don't comply, then we'll issue fines of up to $1,000," Tilley said, adding that the follow-up inspections will be in the next few days.

Robert Russell, owner of Club Mr. Wonderful in As Lito, said he will contest the warning letter issued to his establishment, saying the law "is killing small businesses" that rely on banners placed on business windows and facilities, instead of placing advertisements in the newspaper, radio or television.

He said having tinted windows instead of advertisements will make it harder for mom-and-pop stores and other small businesses to attract more customers.

"It's being handled to a point where the interpretation of the law depends on one person and I believe there's only one board member…It's being interpreted in a manner that is against all businesses," Russell said.

His club was issued a warning letter for a banner sign of "Super Bowl" that advertises a beer product.

"I only had five customers for Super Bowl this morning. Two of them came in just because they saw the sign…For small businesses that earn only $50 to $200 a day, a fine of up to $1,000 a day is going to force us out of business," said Russell, who also owns a retail store in San Antonio and Wonderful Motel in As Lito.

He said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial should now appoint members to the Saipan Zoning board so that zoning decisions won't have to come from one or two people.

Besides Club Mr. Wonderful, other businesses issued a warning letter on the first day of the inspections included Shell Dandan Station, an apartment for rent, a car rental and a mom and pop store.

Successful

In a separate statement yesterday, Tilley said the banner sign cleanup on Saipan has been "a great success."

Retailers and others using banner signs were given until Feb. 1 to remove nonconforming signs.

"We're very pleased by what we don't see. Not only have many nonconforming banner signs been removed but store owners have also cleaned old stickers and other signs from their windows. The public is telling us that the shops look much neater in the last week since the signs came down," Tilley said.

The Zoning Office will be conducting surveys this week to identify remaining nonconforming banners.

The deadline for removing banner signs that don't comply with the Saipan Zoning Law was on Oct. 30, 2008, but the Zoning Office gave a grace period of until Jan. 31, 2009.

Examples of banner signs that are prohibited includes a retail sales event banner sign that advertises a brand name product, contains a brand name, symbol or logo, or a product price.

Banner signs that advertise products are only allowed when they announce an event but then the advertising space will be restricted to 40 percent of the sign area. Banners will be required to include the installation date so the public and Zoning Office can easily see how long they have been up.

People with questions about sign requirements should contact the Zoning Office at 234-9661.

'Federalization law will have limited effect on Labor's functions'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federalization law will have very limited effect on the functions of the Department of Labor unless the federal government wins the lawsuit brought against it by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, according to top Labor officials.

Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas and Deputy Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat stated that they will issue a further report on their assessment of the effects of the U.S. Public Law 110-229 (federalization law) on Labor's functions after the court rules on the lawsuit.

In Labor's 2008 Annual Report submitted to the Legislature, San Nicolas and Kaipat said the briefing in the lawsuit would have been concluded last Jan. 23, but the federal government violated the court rules by filing an overlong brief on that date and the CNMI objected.

"This led to a few more filings, but essentially the case is ready for oral argument, which is expected to be scheduled sometime in February [2009]," the two Labor officials said. The Labor report was released on Jan. 30, 2009.

With respect to anticipated changes in Labor's functions, they said one principal change in the functioning of the department will be the decrease in new foreign workers entering the CNMI.

"It is anticipated that very few foreign workers will qualify under U.S. visa requirements, perhaps fewer than 200 per year," the officials said.

San Nicolas and Kaipat said another change will be the transfer to the United States of the processing of applications to enter the CNMI.

However, they said, these applications have fallen off in 2008 because of the economic conditions in the Commonwealth.

On the issue of manpower and financial needs of Labor starting June 1, 2009, when federalization is implemented, the officials said there is uncertainty whether the U.S. Executive Branch agencies and the U.S. Congress will agree to a 180-day extension of the June 1 deadline.

"In most respect, the manpower needs of the department will remain the same or increase," San Nicolas and Kaipat said.

CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan has been pushing for the delay in the implementation of the federalization law. He cited the absence of funding appropriated for border controls as one of the key reasons for the deadline extension.

Hopes dim for Philippine Airlines-NMI service

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The possibility of Philippine Airlines extending air services to the Commonwealth are dim at present, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said the CNMI has not received any communication from the Philippines' flag carrier regarding the revival of the flight service.

Although it may help CNMI tourist arrivals, Tenorio said the agency is not banking too much on the idea because the CNMI "lost" its potential market from the country when Manila opened its testing facilities for the National Council Licensure Examination for nurses last year.

Last year, PAL president and chief executive officer Jaime J. Bautista was quoted in a newspaper report that the airline company plans to have flights to Saipan, San Diego, Chicago, New York, and Seattle.

"MVA is not aware of any plan [of Philippine Airlines]…and if that opportunity comes up, we need to evaluate fully well the impact on our tourism," he said, noting the decline in arrivals from the Philippines, which usually sends hundreds of nurses to the island to take the NCLEX.

"Our goal [for the Philippine market] is like educational tourism for NCLEX… but since Manila opened its testing facilities we lost the only important component in keeping that market," Tenorio said.

The CNMI recorded a 71-percent drop in arrivals from the Philippines after the nursing test was offered in Manila beginning August 2007. Before that, MVA posted 461 nurses who took the exam on Saipan the previous year.

Between August 2007 and July 2008, only 130 Filipino nurses took the exams at PearsonVue testing center in Garapan.

Nurses from the Philippines and other foreign countries need to take and pass the NCLEX to be eligible to practice in the U.S. and its territories, including Guam and the CNMI.

Between 2002 and 2008, the CNMI nursing board recorded 1,557 foreign nurses taking the exams on Saipan.

Barely a year after NCLEX was offered in the Philippines, the number of nurses who opted to take the test in Manila shot up to 20,410, resulting in the lower number of nurses taking the NCLEX on Saipan and in other areas like Hong Kong.

The drastic drop in the number of Saipan-bound nursing graduates from the Philippines was one of the major reasons cited by Continental Micronesia when it discontinued direct flights between Manila and Saipan effective July 16, 2008.

17 additional farm plots in Kagman to be opened

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At least 17 additional commercial farm plots in Kagman will be opened, according to Agriculture director Richard B. Seman.

This will be in addition to the 30 parcels of land in Kagman leased each year to commercial farmers. At present, there are only 24 active leases in the area.

About 80 percent of the vendors at the Sabalu Market and the Tuesday Night Market are Kagman commercial farmers.

"We're working toward opening at least 17 additional farm plots adjacent to the existing farm plots," said Seman.

Each parcel of land leased to commercial farmers has an average of 10,000 sq. meters. The lease is 1 to 2 cents per square meter.

"One parcel of land costs $100 to $200 a month…but of course you will always have delinquent tenants, those who are unable to pay on time," the Agriculture director said.

The Division of Agriculture provides irrigation and farm equipment services to these commercial farmers.

But Seman said once the submersible water pump breaks down, fixing it automatically costs Agriculture $1,500 to $2,000, which is almost the amount collected by the government from the commercial farm plot leases in Kagman every month.

"What we use for the maintenance of the irrigation and the tractors are the collections from land leases, and they're not enough," he said.

Earlier, Agriculture said it receives only $8,000 in operational budget every year, which has been hurting services to farmers and ranchers. For example, the division has stopped lending its tractors to farmers because none of the three tractors is working due to lack of money to buy parts.

Seman said Agriculture has an added responsibility over the ground maintenance of the Kagman watershed project.

Tsunami
SAIPAN

In cooperation with
Will be providing beginning

American Red Cross

SWIMMING LESSONS

at the
Kan Pacific Swimming Pool
Feb 14 to Mar 21 , 2009

Swim Lessons will be conducted by the swimmers and coaches from the Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan

REGISTRATION -AT THE KAN PACIFIC 50M SWIMMING POOL (MARPI)
09:30 AM TO 10:00 AM: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2009
*Will be first come, first serve basis

PRE-REGISTRATION-ACCEPTED BY EMAILING
Mrs. YUKO KIMURA AT: tsunamisaipan@yahoo.co.jp

CHILDREN MUST BE AT LEAST 5 YEARS OLD, NO TODDLERS PLEASE.

1. LESSONS START	10-11 AM	SATURDAY, FEB 14
2. SECOND LESSON	10 -11 AM	SATURDAY, FEB 21
3. THIRD LESSON	10-11 AM	SATURDAY, FEB 28
Please note, skip March 07		
4. FOURTH LESSON	10-11 AM	SATURDAY, MAR 14
5. FIFTH LESSON & FINAL	10-11 AM	SATURDAY, MAR 21

COST IS $30/CHILD AND $30/FOR ADULTS. SECOND AND MORE PER FAMILY IS $25 EACH. Red Cross Certificates will be issued after the lessons.

Mariana Islands Range Complex Draft EIS/OEIS Available for Public Comment Jan. 30, 2009 – March 16, 2009

On behalf of the U.S. Defense Representative Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau, the U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) for the Mariana Islands Range Complex. The Draft EIS/OEIS is available for public comment through March 16, 2009.

Where to get the EIS/OEIS: Visit www.MarianasRangeComplexEIS.com to download the document or to find a library that has a copy.

The U.S. Defense Representative Wants Your Input!

The U.S. Defense Representative is hosting open house sessions and public hearings to receive oral or written comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS.

Where to submit comments:
Submit comments via the online form at www.MarianasRangeComplexEIS.com or send written comments via postal mail or e-mail to:

Mariana Islands Range Complex EIS
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Attn: EV2
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134
E-mail: marianas.tap.eis@navy.mil

All comments must be postmarked by March 16, 2009.

Proposed Action

The U.S. Defense Representative proposes to support and conduct current, emerging and future training and research, development, test and evaluation training activities in the Mariana Islands Study Area. Three alternatives are analyzed in the Draft EIS/OEIS. Under the No Action Alternative, military activities would continue at current levels. Alternatives 1 and 2 propose increases in military activity and the number and types of training events, and enhancements to range capabilities. Alternative 2 also proposes new activities related to additional Major Exercises.

Open House Sessions & Public Hearings
Open House: 5 - 9 p.m.
Public Hearing: 7 - 9 p.m.

Guam:
February 19, 2009
Jesus & Eugenia Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building
The Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Room 129
University of Guam
Mangilao, Guam 96923

Guam:
February 20, 2009
Southern High School Cafeteria
#1 Jose Perez Leon Guerrero Drive
Santa Rita, Guam 96915

Saipan:
February 23, 2009
Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe

Tinian:
February 24, 2009
Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria
San Jose Village
Tinian, MP 96952

Rota:
February 26, 2009
Sinapolo Elementary School Cafeteria
Sinapolo I

For more information visit
www.MarianasRangeComplexEIS.com

Businessman clears Froilan in illegal gambling issue

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Japanese businessman who has been implicated in allegations that he was engaged in illegal gambling in western Garapan in 2007 has vowed to clear his name in court.

"I will go for trial. Because of this case, I lost my face, I lost my businesses," the 72-year-old Hideo Kato told *Saipan Tribune*.

Kato stressed he was not involved in an illegal casino at Victoria Hotel in Garapan that was raided by Attorney General's Investigative Unit on Aug. 24, 2007.

"I am a Japanese businessman. I do not like to do illegal [on] Saipan," he said.

Tenorio

Showing a license to operate the gambling activity, the businessman said the confusion happened because the former Attorney General suddenly changed the gambling law.

Kato refused to elaborate as he has a hearing in the Superior Court on Thursday.

At the same time, Kato said he feels sad because the name of former Gov. Froilan Tenorio was dragged into the alleged illegal gambling issue.

He said Tenorio, whom he considers a trusted business partner, had no intention whatsoever to operate an illegal gambling joint.

"In Japan, we the investors trust him [Tenorio]," Kato said.

In fact, the former governor has been silently trying to encourage investors from Japan to come back for the economic recovery of the CNMI, he said.

The Attorney General's Office charged Kato and businessman Byoong Seob Choi with 119 counts of illegal gambling activity and unlawful employment of aliens.

Choi recently submitted a "no contest" plea to two counts of unlawful employment of aliens. He was sentenced to three years of probation.

The AGO implicated Tenorio in the illegal casino, but he was never charged.

Kato said the AGO did not file charges against Tenorio because there was no evidence whatsoever against the former chief executive.

Ex-street fighter gets 5 months for knocking out wife's brother

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has imposed a five-month prison term on former heavyweight street fighter Antonio Wabol Nekaifes for knocking out the brother of his common-law wife.

Wiseman sentenced the 33-year-old Nekaifes to one year in prison, all suspended except for five months, for assault and battery.

Wiseman also sentenced the defendant to five months in prison for violating the terms of his probation in a previous criminal case.

The judge, however, ordered that the sentence in the violation of probation case be served concurrently with the sentence in the beating case. This means that Nekaifes, also known as Xcalibur, will serve a total of five months in prison for the two cases.

Wiseman ordered the defendant to start serving his sentence on Feb. 20, 2009 at 8am. The defendant is expected to be released on July 20, 2009 at 8am.

Nekaifes will be placed on one-year supervised probation. He will be required to pay a $278 restitution for medical bills incurred by the victim, Anthony I. Somorang.

The judge directed the defendant to pay a $25 court assessment fee and perform 100 hours of community work service.

Nekaifes signed a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to assault and battery.

The plea deal stated that on July 20, 2008, Nekaikes hit Somorang in the face.

Police said Somorang sustained a swollen right cheek, nose, and lips. He had a black eye and suffered several cuts in the face. He also had abrasions on the back of his head.

A detective stated in her report that Nekaifes and Somorang had an argument about the defendant's common-law wife at Somorang's residence in Chalan Laulau.

The argument escalated into a shoving match. When the victim fell, the defendant allegedly went on top of Somorang and repeatedly punched him in the face.

The victim failed to fight back because he had blacked out, police said.

On Jan. 10, 2007, Nekaifes was sentenced to five years probation for knocking out a motorist, whom he reportedly beat up and assaulted with a rock in Chalan Laulau. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Revival of NMC small business dev't programs possible

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Programs vital to the development of small business entities may be revived by the Northern Marianas College once its accreditation is reaffirmed by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Board of Regents chair Charles Cepeda noted yesterday the important role small business development programs will play once federalization takes effect. The business community believes federalization threatens to eliminate the islands' nonresident workforce.

Through recommendations from the NMC management, the board last year suspended "some" programs under the Small Business Development Center, which was established in 1993 to administer and expand on the services that had been offered by the NMC Business Incubator since 1989.

"We may look at this option once we completely deal with our accreditation," he said.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
The Small Business Development Center building at the As Terlaje campus of the Northern Marianas College.

However, the chairman said the management will take care of the full assessment before the final recommendation is presented to the board.

"All is up to the NMC president and the management… because we're relying on their assessments and recommendations," he said.

Cepeda expressed his optimism on the positive decision of the accrediting body for NMC based on the indications shared by the president during her meeting with the commissioners.

Cepeda disclosed that the suspension of the programs was a result of "not enough participation" from potential participants and its supposed partners, coupled with the lack of funding for support.

"The interest was not high for the program," he said, adding that NMC opted to concentrate on complying with the accreditation issues.

However, Cepeda said, NMC and the board remain supportive of any and other institutions that cater to the same objective of helping businessmen build local capacities.

"We will consult with the NMC president if there's an immediate need to re-offer these programs," the chairman added.

According to NMC website, due to substantial budget cuts since 2006, "the program has had to suspend most of its programs" and merge with the Business Department in Building V.

As a result of leaving Building T in 2006 so the School of Education could move in, the Business Incubator program was discontinued. The SBDC also had to suspend the Women-In-Business and Youth Entrepreneurship programs as the funding for the three staff business consultants and office manager positions were suspended. Federal grants for the programs also dried up.

The SBDC evolved in 1993 to provide comprehensive services to local small business owners and entrepreneurs that operate businesses outside of the Business Incubator facility. The SBDC was also developed to help combat the alarming increase in the number of small, foreign-owned firms in the CNMI by providing technical assistance to local business people that face a competitive disadvantage due to their lack of basic business skills.

Upon its opening in 1993, the SBDC launched the Client Counseling and Workshop and Seminar programs. In 2001, the SBDC additionally created the Women-In-Business program, followed by the Youth Entrepreneurship program in 2004. At its prime, the SBDC had a director/business consultant, three staff business consultants with their MBAs, and an office manager.

CDA-CUC proposed debt equity conversion is 'still on the table'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The proposed debt equity conversion agreement between the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Commonwealth Development Authority for the latter's $45.5 million outstanding obligation is still on the negotiating table.

This, according to CDA acting executive director Oscar Camacho, who said that as of yesterday CUC has yet to send a formal response to the offer.

"We have yet to receive anything in particular from CUC pertaining to the proposed agreement," Camacho said, adding that the agency had only a copy of the petition that CUC filed with the Public Utilities Commission, which included provisions on the debt equity conversion.

He said the agency's legal counsel is working with CUC on the matter.

Camacho reiterated the agency's position that CDA interest should be "superior" to any other obligations of CUC.

The acting executive director described the CUC petition as "confirmation" to the approach of CDA.

"The petition, for us, is a confirmation of the approach that we're taking," he said, adding that CDA wants to retain its superior status to any other debts or future debts to be incurred by the utilities corporation.

CDA, he said, need not act or comment on the petition but would wait until the time CUC agrees to the proposal.

CUC asked PUC to transfer $29 million in CUC preferred stock to the CDA so that it can address its longstanding debt.

The two agencies have been at odds over the loan, which affects CUC's ability to borrow money and its plans for privatization.

The petition also revealed that CUC customers would shoulder a rate increase of about $5 million annually if the agency was to pay at market rates.

For those reasons, CUC is asking that the $45.5 million be converted to stock, with CDA waiving $16 million of it, for a total transaction of $29.4 million.

Under the same proposal, all accrued interest would be waived in return for settling the government's utility bills. Dividend payments would be 2 percent annually and deferred for the first three years with the amount amortized over 15 years without interest.

PUC, if it agrees to the petition, will hold hearings on the matter in March.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-GOV-043
(1/20/09)

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2009 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PROCUREMENT OF A FORKLIFT FOR THE CNMI WATER TASK FORCE"

A COPY OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
LT. GOVERNOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. BOX 502641, SAIPAN, MP 96950-2641
TEL. NOS.: (670) 664-3300, 3304 • FAX: (670) 664-3310
e-mail: govbop@vzpacifica.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Board of Parole Office and pursuant to Public Law B-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", Notice is hereby given that a **Parole Hearing** is scheduled for **February 18, 2009, (Wednesday) beginning at 9:00 a.m., and, if need be, to continue on February 19, 2009, (Thursday) at 9:00 a.m. at the Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room**, Susupe, Saipan. The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Adoption of Parole Hearing Minutes - May 21, 2009

III. Parole Application	BOP No.	Criminal Case No.
1. Alex Alfonso Augustine	07-019	06-0239B
2. Benjamin John John	08-008	07-0071(E)
3. Wang Tao	08-009	06-0196B
4. Joseph Acosta Crisostimo	08-012	07-147C
5. Raymond Basa Blas	08-014	04-809
6. David Manglona Atatig	08-015	06-0098E
7. Pedro Omar	09-001	02-0339C
IV. Re-Application	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1. Joaquin S. Peredo	08-RA-005	04-lSlC

V. Miscellaneous Parole Matters
VI. Adjournment

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman, Board of Parole

January 23, 2009
Date

Workshop teaches military families how to cope

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 50 adults take part in a workshop for Echo Company soldier family members on Saturday at PIC.

KRISTI EATON

As their loved ones are deployed abroad, family members of local Echo Company soldiers spent Saturday undergoing a sustainment workshop and training.

About 70 relatives of those serving in the 100th BN 442nd and 368th MP Det. 1 took part in the workshop, held at Pacific Islands Club.

"Each deployment is different. There's always room to learn," said FRG leader Rita L. Chargualaf, FRG leader.

Agnes Ada, whose husband is serving, said the topics discussed, like stress management, were helpful.

"I feel like I can always use the resources," Ada, who has attended several similar workshops, said.

This was the first workshop where dependents also took part. Children were divided into groups by age and participated in different leadership building activities.

Some of the youngest kids—age 5 to 8 years old—watched a Sesame Street DVD that featured Elmo's father being deployed. They later made Valentine's Day cards for their family members.

"Kids serve, too. They're going through a hard time," said Kasee Fuller, regional coordinator for the Army Reserve Child, Youth and School Services. The day was focused on the kids getting to know each other, she said. A reunion workshop will take place in May.

An older group of kids learned how to use listening skills by trying to go from point A to point B with their eyes closed, only listening to directions to guide them.

The teenagers, meanwhile, learned about making good life choices, such as avoiding drugs.

Guam National Guard Sgt. Iglesias Thomas said it's important to remember that everyone makes mistakes and its not the end of the world if someone is arrested for drugs.

'Rough seas through Friday'

A large storm system east of Japan is expected to generate waves 9-15 feet high through early Friday, forcing the CNMI Emergency Management Office to issue a small craft advisory for hazardous seas yesterday.

Based on the information received from National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled by the local EMO, these swells will begin to enter the local area tonight and become large during the week.

These swells will raise the seas to 9-10 feet tonight and 10-12 feet Tuesday. Today northeast wind 10-15 KT gusts up to 25 KT in the afternoon. Wind waves 4-6 feet east swell 4 feet and north 3 feet. Tonight east wind 15-20 KT with gusts to 30 KT wind waves 6-8 feet mixed swell east 5 feet and northwest 4 feet.

A shear line also cuts across the islands, which means trade winds will freshen and large northwest swells were expected to begin arriving last night and become more northerly later in the week. Combined seas of 9 to 10 feet will build to between 10 and 12 feet Tuesday afternoon.

On Guam and Rota, the high surf advisory will be in effect from 6am Tuesday to 6am Friday along all north and west facing reefs.

On Tinian and Saipan, the high surf advisory will be in effect from 6am today to 6am Friday along north and west facing reefs.

The EMO is strongly advising the public to avoid venturing near reefs and exposed beaches as wind and wave conditions support dangerous rip current. It added that rip current are life threatening to anyone entering the water. ***(PR)***

Art competition accepting entries

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela has announced the opening of the annual County of Maui Art Competition to all junior high and high school students on Saipan.

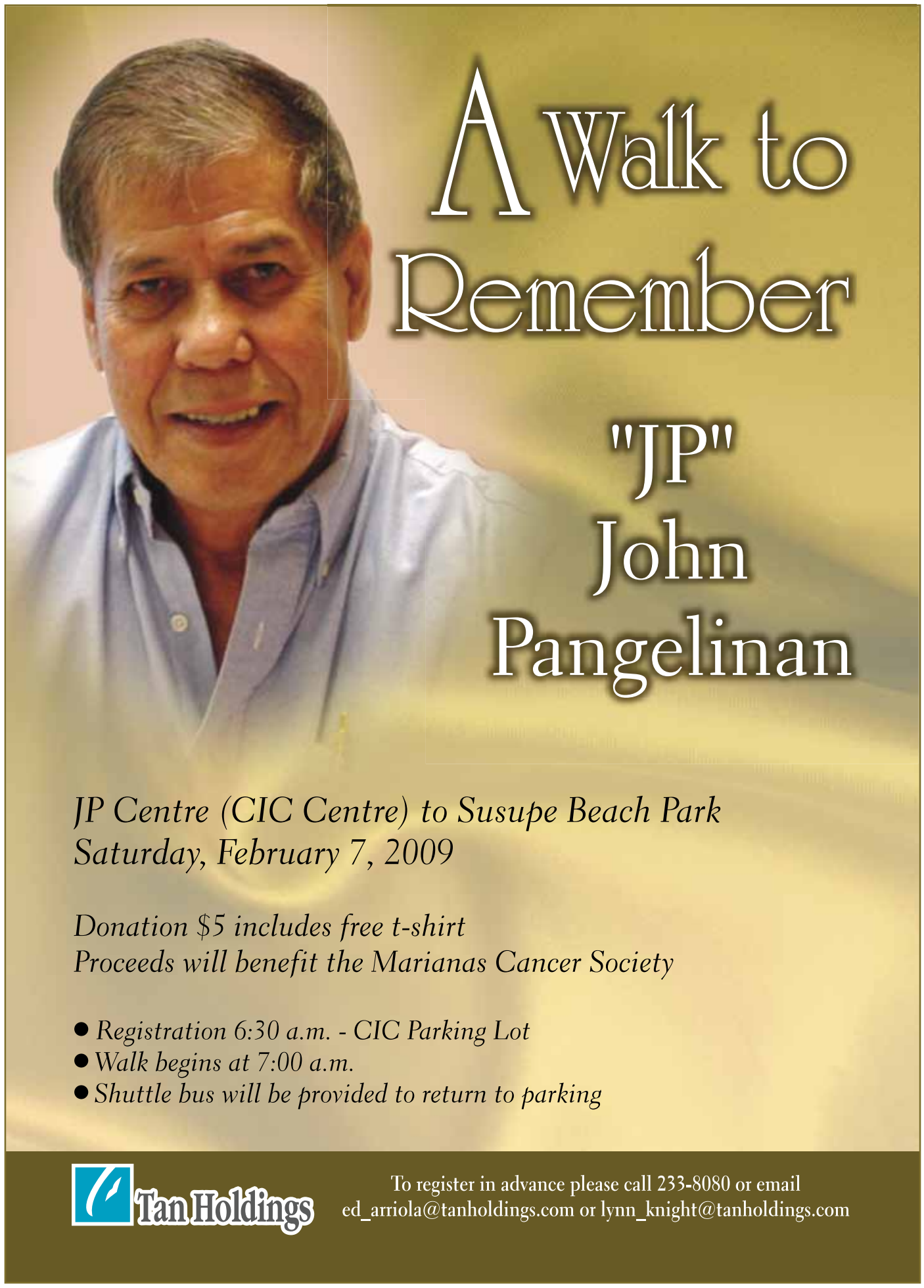
Tudela

Every year, the County of Maui participates in the Sister Cities Foundation International Conference. Exciting programs are planned for the conference, among them is a Young Artist Showcase for children in junior high and high school level. The theme for this year is "Your Path To Peace."

All entries must be received at the Saipan Mayor's Office in San Antonio no later than 4pm on March 13.

"The 2009 Your Path To Peace is an opportunity for you to express your personal vision of peace. Life is a journey and it is characterized by what you feel, see, hear, think and, most importantly, defined by you," the Mayor's Office said in a statement.

For more information about this year's competition, call Youth Programs coordinator Jemalyn T. Tenorio at 234-6280 or 234-6208 during regular working hours Monday to Friday between 8am and 4pm. ***(PR)***


A Walk to Remember
"JP"
John
Pangelinan
JP Centre (CIC Centre) to Susupe Beach Park
Saturday, February 7, 2009
Donation $5 includes free t-shirt
Proceeds will benefit the Marianas Cancer Society
Registration 6:30 a.m. - CIC Parking Lot
Walk begins at 7:00 a.m.
Shuttle bus will be provided to return to parking
Tan Holdings
To register in advance please call 233-8080 or email
ed_arriola@tanholdings.com or lynn_knight@tanholdings.com

Zoning Office to help adult businesses

The Commonwealth Zoning Board will soon conduct surveys to help adult businesses comply with the Saipan Zoning Law.

"Since last August, adult businesses on Saipan were supposed to meet the building and sign design requirements of the Saipan Zoning Law. We have given them extra time to make the required changes but many still have work to do. We will do a survey of adult businesses in Garapan to inform as many businesses as we can about how to comply. We hope adult businesses will take notice because after March 1, 2009, we will begin issuing fines to businesses that don't comply. The fines may be up to $1,000 per day," said Zoning administrator Steve Tilley.

The term adult business includes massage parlors, strip clubs, porno shops, and other places that meet the specific definition in the Saipan Zoning Law. Bars and karaoke clubs that have bar girls or hostesses but do not display specified anatomical areas or specified sexual activities are not considered to be adult businesses. Mainline video stores that have an adult section where minors are not allowed may also be exempt. The exact language of the law can be found on the Zoning office's website: www.zoning.gov.mp.

Some examples of the requirements for adult business building design are: screening openings so the public can't see inside; posting signs to prevent minors from entering; no outdoor loudspeakers; lighted walkways; and clean and neat exterior. Examples of the requirements for adult business signs are: not using flashing lights, neon or other internally illuminated signs or up-lighting; using English text with non-English in exact translation and not larger than the English; not more than one primary and one secondary sign that meet specific size requirements; and using solid color letters and background.

"We are trying to improve the amenity and image of Saipan. This will help revive our tourism economy and make Garapan and other parts of Saipan a more enjoyable experience for our own families," said Tilley.

Adult business owners should contact the Zoning Office to request an inspection and find out how to comply at 234-9661 or e-mail staff@zoning.gov.mp. ***(Zoning)***

Family dog missing

PAWS is asking for the community's help in locating a dog that was taken from a very special woman, Paradise Island Animal Hospital's veterinary assistant Paulina.

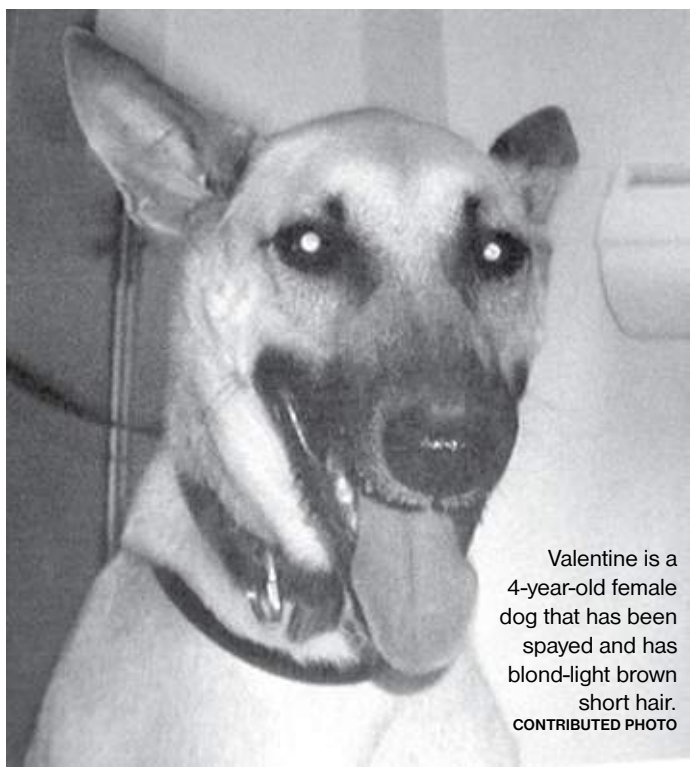
Valentine, the much loved pet of Paulina, has been taken from her family's backyard at the Seoul Hotel. The family is desperately trying to locate the dog and bring the female dog home.

Valentine is a 4-year-old female dog that has been spayed (she cannot have babies), and has blond-light brown short hair.

"This could not have happened to a more caring individual," said PAWS president Katie Busenkell. "Pauline has helped thousands of sick animals on Saipan, all with a smile and gentle, kind touch. This dog means very much to Paulina and her family. Please, if you have information that will bring Valentine back to her family, or if you are willing to help look for Valentine, please contact PIAH."

If you have any information regarding Valentine, or you think you may have seen Valentine since Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, contact Paradise Island Animal Hospital at 234-9669 or you may contact PAWS at 285-PAWS. Anonymous calls are welcome at either number.

The family is willing to give a reward for any information leading to Valentine's safe return. ***(PAWS)***



Valentine is a 4-year-old female dog that has been spayed and has blond-light brown short hair.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas March Against Cancer set May 22-23

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer is set for May 22-23.

The largest fundraising event in the CNMI to support cancer education and promote awareness will be held at Hopwood Junior High School from 6pm on May 22 to 6am the following day.

"As one of the leading causes of illness and death in the CNMI, and all around the world, cancer greatly impacts many aspects of our lives. Cancer affects people of all races, age groups and genders. Fortunately, the search for a cure is making substantial progress. With events like the Marianas March Against Cancer we are continuing to raise critically needed funds in the fight against this deadly disease," said CCA in a statement.

It added that the event not only raises funds, it elevates awareness and encourages hope for those struggling with the disease. MMAC gives supporters an opportunity to honor and be with cancer survivors, and to remember those who have lost the battle against this terrible affliction.

MMAC is the signature fundraising event for the CCA, a volunteer-driven organization which ensures that all funds raised are applied locally. All funds raised will go towards the fight against cancer.

Anyone interested in forming a team and would like to participate in this event may attend the next MMAC's team captains' meeting on Feb. 18, 5:30pm. The venue will be announced at a later time.

In the meantime, for more information regarding forming a team, e-mail Reina Camacho at reinacamacho@gmail.com. The MMAC Committee will also have its next meeting this Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 12pm.

For more information about this event, e-mail Catherine Attao (attao20@yahoo.com) and Chris Concepcion (chrisaconcepcion@gmail.com) or visit the Web site at www.ccamarianas.org. You may also call 682-0050. ***(PR)***

MALE INVOLVEMENT MONTH
Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez signs the proclamation for Fatherhood/Male Involvement Month at the Tanapag Elementary School on Jan. 29, 2009.
REY BELGADO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 3, 1999

CNMI CIP share cut

Because of the failure of the Northern Marianas to use millions in infrastructure grants, President Bill Clinton has cut down 51 percent to $5.6 million next year's funding for Capital Improvement Projects in the commonwealth. Under the White House proposed budget for Fiscal 2000, the reduction in the annual appropriation of $11 million provided to CNMI under the Section 702 of the Covenant will be funneled to Guam to unburden it from the cost of hosting Micronesians. This more than doubled the current level of capital improvement grants Washington extends to Guam from $4.6 million to $10 million, a move the US envisions to ease the financial impact spawned by the immigration of citizens from the Freely Associated States.

Legislature heeds call to monitor garment sector

In a quick response to a call for reforms from leading U.S. apparel firm Liz Claiborne, the CNMI Legislature is eyeing the creation of an independent monitoring group that will help put in place a code of conduct for the local garment sector and clamp down erring factories. Senate President Paul A. Manglona is set to file a bill, called CNMI Independent Garment Factories Monitoring Foundation Act of 1999, setting out the mechanism for the proposed watchdog for local garment manufacturers to safeguard their workers and ensure compliance with labor laws. Describing the measure as critical, Manglona said lawmakers will consult with various government agencies as well as the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association before tackling the proposal on the floor. The move followed a meeting last Monday between members of the House of Representatives and the Senate and Paul R. Charron, chairman and chief executive officer of the New Jersey-based company, in which they discussed issues affecting the global clothing trade, including human rights.

February 3, 2000

Enron protests CUC decision

One of the top bidders on the controversial Saipan power project has protested the decision by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to scrap the 80-megawatt plant and throw out its proposal despite receiving the highest scores in the evaluation conducted by independent experts. Enron Mariana Power cited lack of good faith and alleged bias by the government-owned corporation against the company which it said resulted in CUC's "arbitrary and capricious breach" of the terms in the request for proposal implying fair and equal treatment of each bidder. As remedy, the Houston-based industrial giant is seeking reinstatement of the mothballed power plant and selection of Enron as the top bidder, or reimbursement of at least $750,000 incurred by the company in bidding for the much delayed project, according to its lawyer.

Airline eyes Taiwan-Saipan service

A Taipei-based airline company has indicated intention to provide air transportation service between Taiwan and the Northern Marianas beginning summer this year, Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas disclosed yesterday. Mr. Salas said Mandarin Airlines have written CPA signifying its plan to ferry Taiwanese passengers between Taipei and Saipan using 737-800 aircraft on a charter schedule beginning either May or June this year. The aircraft can accommodate more than 120 passengers. Discussions between Ports Authority and airline officials started last week although Mr. Salas admitted that negotiations for the possible entry of the Taiwanese carrier into Saipan are still in the early stage.

February 3, 2003

Answers sought in shuttle disaster

Remnants of the space shuttle Columbia and its crew remained strewn across east Texas and Louisiana Sunday, as authorities probed possible causes for the tragedy that pierced a crystal blue sky and stung deeper into an already shaken sense of security. A white streak flashed across the sky high over Texas as the shuttle appeared to break off into separate balls of light Saturday, killing all seven astronauts aboard and spraying wreckage over hundreds of miles of countryside. The catastrophe occurred 39 miles above the Earth, in the last 16 minutes of the 16-day mission as the spaceship re-entered the atmosphere and glided in for a landing in Florida.

18 science fair entries advance to Guam expo

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System on Sunday named 18 outstanding science projects that will represent the Commonwealth in the Guam science exposition in March.

Sunday marked the second year of the islandwide competition that saw the participation of 18 schools on Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

Held at the Marianas High School gymnasium, 86 individual entries were publicly viewed Saturday while awarding of honors was held Sunday.

Tess A. Reyes, islandwide science fair coordinator, said five competing groups entered equally amazing projects that impressed the contest jurors.

She described this year's entries as more "challenging and creative" reflecting the students' enthusiasm and interest on their projects.

The groups competed in the four contest categories: life, physical, health/nutrition and medical, and earth and space science.

Adjudged top winners in the kindergarten through first grade division were Kagman Elementary's Keith Villagomez and San Antonio Elementary's Alannah Sablan.

Jesus Untalan of Tinian Elementary, Teo Laniyo of Dandan Elementary, Aysha Cabrera of Kagman Elementary, and Miguel Aninon of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School won for the 2nd to 3rd grade division.

Awardees in the fourth to fifth grade division were Vanessa Gramlich of San Vicente Elementary, Patrick Agustin of Gregorio T. Camacho, Ann Margaret Norcio of Oleai, and Angela Aninon of Gregorio T. Camacho while similar honors were given to Neri Bles Jingco of Rota Junior High, Zachery Yamagishi of Garapan Elementary, Zalika Joyner of Chacha Oceanview, and Blesilda Maratita of Koblerville Elementary for the sixth through eight grade division.

Recognized students in the ninth to twelfth grades were Allison Madamba and Kaelani Demapan of Saipan Southern High School, Aisha Joyner and Allyssa Shara-Mae Arangorin of Kagman High School.

The 18 students were the first place winners in each contest categories in every grade division.

PSS also awarded ribbons, medals and gift items to the contest runner-ups during Sunday's ceremony.

This year, each school entered five projects to the competition.

Tess Reyes said PSS intends to bring next year's competition to a hotel to showcase the public school talents to the community and tourists.

She commended the volunteer-teachers who worked hard for the success of the event.

The event was in collaboration with the schools' science/wellness learning community, headed by Sharlene Crisostimo.

Entries were judged based on scientific thought, creative ability, understanding, clarity, dramatic value and technical skill.

Allyssa Shara-Mae Arangorin, one of the 18 top winners, said she's excited to be in the Guam competition.

"This is my first time in the islandwide competition…and it feels great!" she told *Saipan Tribune.*

The student entered "A conventional way of filtering rain water" which took her days to complete.

In this difficult times, Arangorin said, she wants to offer the public an "easy, simple, and better way" to filter healthy water.

The CNMI was represented by five students in the 2008 science exposition in Guam where the overall champion competes in the national level.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, in her message, said the fair is designed to provide the opportunity for students to further investigate science in different categories.

"The inquiry in science is a never-ending process and we would like our students to showcase such talent that they bring with them with their entries," Sablan said, adding that it is their hope to expand the science fair to include other disciplines such as engineering, electronics, technology, mathematics and the arts to prepare students with their career interests and future studies.

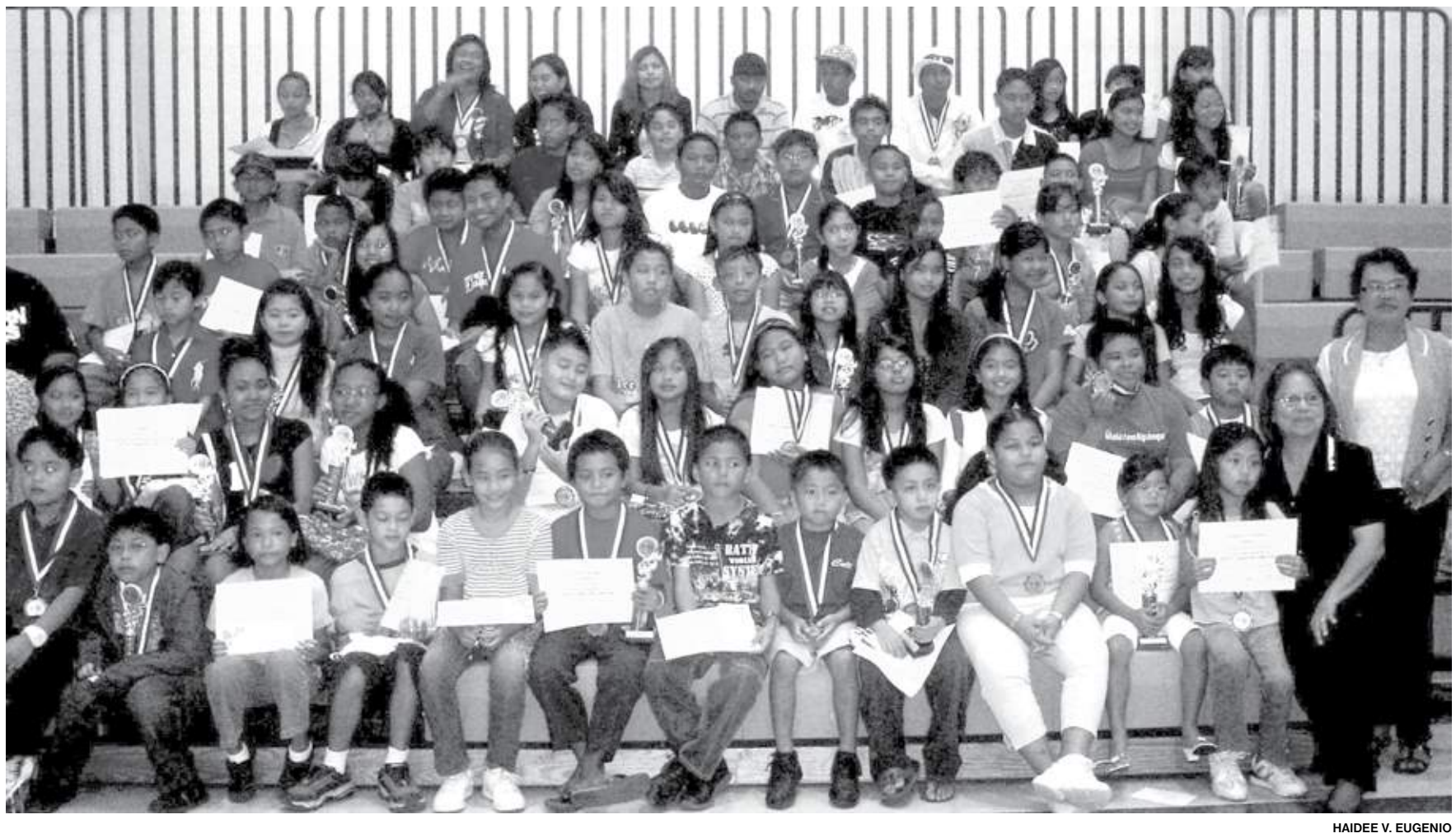
Winning entries for this year included "rocking candle"; "best ant repellant"; "the best bleach"; "best stain remover"; "attack of the killer vine"; "wind versus water"; "saving soil from water erosion"; "which bread grows mold the fastest" "deforestation and reforestation"; "explosion with Diet Pepsi"; "water in the Pacific"; "organic multi-vitamin super malunggay"; "big things come in small packages"; "fastest way to chill a soda"; "bringing down greenhouse gases"; and "a conventional way of filtering rain water."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, right, is all smiles as she joins the winners and finalists of the 2009 Public School System Islandwide Science Fair during the awarding ceremonies in the Marianas High School gymnasium on Sunday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, right, first row, and other educators join the overall winners of the 2009 Public School System Islandwide Science Fair during the awarding ceremonies in the Marianas High School gymnasium on Sunday morning. The winners will be representing the CNMI in an upcoming science fair to be held on Guam.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, second from right, first row, and other educators join the winners and finalists of the 2009 Public School System Islandwide Science Fair during the awarding ceremonies in the Marianas High School gymnasium on Sunday morning.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Take charge

Mounting the bully pulpit last week, President Obama gave Wall Street a lecture about the $18.4 billion in bonuses that the securities industry awarded itself in 2008. This was "outrageous," Mr. Obama said. In these tough times, he declared, financiers must "show some restraint and show some discipline and show some sense of responsibility." Well said. Now the president should make the same demand on those in Congress, including leaders of his own party, who are cluttering his fiscal stimulus plan with extraneous and counterproductive provisions.

The United States faces an economic emergency, and economists generally agree that a big package of federal spending and tax cuts could help. But experts are voicing skepticism about the composition of the $825 billion measure that emerged from the Democratic-controlled House last week—and which the Senate is now increasing. The concern: Instead of giving the economy a "targeted, timely and temporary" injection, the plan has been larded with spending on existing social programs or hastily designed new ones, much of it permanent or probably permanent—and not enough of it likely to create new jobs.

Former Clinton administration budget director Alice Rivlin fears that "money will be wasted because the investment elements were not carefully crafted." Former Reagan administration economist Martin Feldstein writes that "it delivers too little extra employment and income for such a large fiscal deficit." Columbia University's Jeffrey D. Sachs labels the plan "an astounding mishmash of tax cuts, public investments, transfer payments and special treats for insiders."

So much for "targeted" and "temporary." What about "timely?" The administration says that it wants 75 percent of the money to "spend out" within 18 months. But the Congressional Budget Office estimates that, under the House bill, only 64 percent of the spending and tax cuts will hit the economy by 2011. And in recent days, a new threat has emerged—namely that the bill will become a vehicle for resurgent protectionism. The House added "Buy American" provisions for iron, steel and textiles, and the Senate seems bent on expanding the list of products. The vice president seems blithely heedless of the danger these measures pose. Supported by Republicans as well as Democrats, the protectionism could undo whatever job creation the stimulus plan achieves by provoking U.S. trading partners into excluding U.S. goods.

Mr. Obama has sought bipartisan support for the bill. This is to his credit, but by simultaneously courting Republicans and assigning the actual drafting of the bill to Democratic congressional leaders, he has wound up zigzagging between the two parties rather than herding them together. When he seemed to lean toward more tax cuts to win over Republicans, Democrats rebelled and opted for more spending. When they proposed hundreds of millions of dollars for contraceptives and the Mall, Mr. Obama had the controversial provisions removed, but too late to win over Republicans.

What he needs to do now is take charge. Yes, the Republicans can try to spoil things with a filibuster in the Senate. And, yes, Democrats won the November election, so they are entitled to shape policy. But only Mr. Obama has a 67 percent Gallup Poll approval rating. Only he embodies this anxious nation's hopes for change. No one in Washington can match his clout. He should use it to make sure Congress gives him a stimulus plan that is not only big but coherent and, most of all, effective.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH 1/09 BROOKINS
THEREFORE, IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE, OUR ONLY OPTION IS TO INVEST 400 BILLION (OF TAXPAYER MONEY) BY TUESDAY IN WIND AND THE
ENERGY EXPERTS
AMERICA'S MOST RELIABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE...

The House's modern-day Hoovers

By COLBERT I. KING
Special to The Washington Post

WASHINGTON—Republicans are given to saying and doing the darnedest things.

Remember last fall when House Republicans, led by Minority Leader John Boehner, whined that they were forced to kill the Bush administration's bank bailout bill because Speaker Nancy Pelosi had given a speech that hurt their feelings?

Well, they are back with another howler—and a reminder why the GOP is no longer the nation's dominant political party.

Last week, House Republicans voted in lock step against President Obama's economic stimulus package, using as one excuse their deep concern about the impact of government spending on the future debt burden of America's "children and grandchildren."

The GOP's distress is little more than a political contrivance. Were the Republicans really putting children first, they would have supported a stimulus plan that sought to provide money to communities and people, create jobs, and put homeownership within reach of working families.

Even after Democrats dropped some spending provisions that Republicans found distasteful, not one House Republican voted for Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

This is not to say the House-passed legislation is golden.

"Buy American" riders tacked on the bill are dead weights. They call to mind the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930, Herbert Hoover's protectionist measure aimed at reducing foreign competition. Smoot-Hawley sparked a global trade war that prolonged the Great Depression.

Candidate Obama waffled on "Buy American" provisions; President Obama can't. He should suck it up and tell the Senate to trim the riders.

The Senate can also improve the bill by changing tax and infrastructure measures to pump money into the economy faster. But fashioning a good, broad-based stimulus plan calls for bipartisan cooperation. The House GOP passed up the chance. With the economy tanking, Senate Republicans should put country first and get on board.

Michigan Democratic Rep. John Dingell got it right when he accused his Republican colleagues in a news release of being "more than willing to let right-wing radio shock jocks drive their political discourse, even after the president traveled to Capitol Hill to listen to and work with them in a genuine attempt to start his administration off on a bipartisan note."

Were House Republicans less obsessed with pandering to the right, they would have quickly noticed how today's crisis is affecting children.

Reporters use "corporate layoffs" as shorthand for job cuts in the banking and auto industries, and by companies such as Home Depot, Sprint Nextel and Starbucks. The term, however, doesn't come close to capturing the extent to which pink slips devastate households with mouths to feed.

Behind those huge, sterile unemployment numbers are children, shaken by the despair in the faces of laid-off moms and dads.

Grandchildren are hearing whispered dinner table conversations about grandparents whose losses in 401(k) savings will force them to postpone retirement.

And young adults aren't blind. They see the closed stores in the mall. They have classmates who are losing their homes because the mortgages can't be paid. They hear the stories of neighbors looking for work and not finding any.

Nearly 5 million people are receiving unemployment insurance benefits. "These are not just numbers on a page," Obama said the other day. They are working people with families "whose lives have been disrupted."

The pain of this recession was apparently lost on Boehner and his House Republicans.

Their public fretting over the future impact of deficits on today's children and grandchildren is disingenuous.

In truth, what really gets them hot and bothered is the thought of government taking on more responsibility to fight this deepening recession, and the huge amount of public spending it will take to pull the economy out of the doldrums.

It so happened that the Republican standard-bearer in the 1920s, Herbert Hoover, felt that way, too.

Hoover's distaste for government, and his belief that business was the answer to the country's economic tailspin, got Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt elected president in 1932.

In their slavish devotion to Hooverism, today's Republicans are repeating the mistakes that banished their party to the political wilderness in the '30s.

Boehner and his colleagues should worry less about what today's children and grandchildren will inherit from an Obama administration and spend more time trying to undo the present-day lessons taught by business chieftains, to wit, that:

- Need and greed are synonymous. (How else do they give themselves $20 billion in bonuses as their companies sink in a sea of red ink?)
- Government bailouts trump creating and saving jobs.
- Business tax credits are superior to investment in programs that repair holes in the social safety net.

Anything's possible, but there's a good chance that today's children and grandchildren will look back from adulthood and see an era in which a Democratic president and Congress tried, at least, to help their families and communities. And, it's a good bet they will appreciate the effort.

There's also a chance that those children will end up thinking no more of today's comfortable-living Republican Party than their grandparents and great-grandparents thought of Herbert Hoover and his well-off crowd.

House Republicans can also get cutesy about that.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Obama's bold first week

By ROSA BROOKS
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Barack Obama ended four wars during his first week as president. With just a few words and strokes of his pen, the president ended the war on terror, the war on Islam, the war on science and the war on women.

In his first executive orders, Obama effectively dismantled the elaborate structures that supported the Bush administration's "war on terror." On Jan. 22, he ordered the closure of the Guantanamo prison and a halt to the much-criticized military commission trials. He closed secret CIA prisons, required that the Red Cross have access to detainees and mandated that interrogations of detainees—whether by the military, the CIA or anyone else—comply with the rules laid out in the Army Field Manual.

That means: No more torture. No waterboarding, beatings, sexual humiliations or deprivation of food or medical care. And in case anyone's confused, the order makes it clear that those seeking guidance "may not rely on any interpretation of the law governing interrogation ... issued by the Department of Justice between September 11, 2001, and January 20, 2009." (That means you, John Yoo).

The war on Islam is also over. Officially, of course, it never existed. But that's how the "war on terror" looked to many around the world, a misunderstanding fueled by the war in Iraq and the irresponsible rhetoric of many Bush administration officials.

After 9/11, the United States had widespread international support—including within the Islamic world—for military action in Afghanistan to destroy al-Qaida and oust its Taliban hosts. But when that morphed into an open-ended U.S. effort to go to war in more "target-rich" environments (read: Iraq), regardless of the lack of connection to 9/11, U.S. actions struck many Muslims as motivated by generic hostility to Islam. That U.S. officials from George W. Bush on down seemed fuzzy about the differences between Sunni and Shiite Muslims, and tended to ignore the very different ideologies that motivate different militant organizations, added to the sense that the U.S. considered Islam itself the problem.

But by giving his first televised interview to Al Arabiya, a channel watched throughout the Arab world, Obama made it clear that the U.S. isn't at war with Islam itself. "The Muslim world is filled with extraordinary people who simply want to live their lives and see their children live better lives," he said. "There are extremist organizations—whether Muslim or any other faith ... that will use faith as a justification for violence. We cannot paint with a broad brush a faith as a consequence of the violence that is done in that faith's name. ... Our administration (will) be very clear in distinguishing between organizations like al-Qaida—that ... espouse terror .... and people who may disagree with my administration" in legitimate ways.

Obama also ended the undeclared Bush administration war on science. In his inaugural speech, he promised to "restore science to its rightful place." Reversing years of Bush administration disregard of scientific evidence on global climate change, Obama ordered the Transportation Department to set new fuel-efficiency standards and ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to rethink its Bush-era refusal to allow states to impose anti-pollution standards more stringent than federal ones.

The undeclared war on women? Also over. On Jan. 23, Obama reversed the "Mexico City policy," which prohibited recipients of U.S. foreign-assistance funds from providing abortions or even providing information about abortions. Family planning groups worldwide no longer will have to choose between providing honest information and receiving crucial funding.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that these assorted "wars" were only metaphors, incapable of producing real harm. The "war on terror" was practically a gift to Osama bin Laden: Our detention and interrogation policies probably fueled far more terrorism than they prevented. Ditto for the Bush administration's undeclared war against Islam.

The Bush administration's replacement of science with ideology was equally devastating: How many lives will be lost or blighted as we all pay the price for a decade of denial about the human causes of global warming? And some estimate that as many as 500,000 women worldwide have died since 2001 as a result of botched abortions, many of which might have been prevented if the Mexico City policy hadn't pushed abortions and abortion counseling underground in many countries.

Obama's job is just beginning. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq will be far harder to end.

Still, not bad for a week's work.

Three challenges for Iraq in 2009

By STAFFAN DE MISTURA
Special to The Washington Post

The writer is special representative of the U.N. secretary-general for Iraq.

BAGHDAD—A few weeks ago, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq was reminded how bad things can still be in Baghdad when a 240mm rocket slammed into our compound, ricocheted off a tree and exploded, killing two employees and wounding several others. Dozens of Iraqis continue to die each week at the hands of merciless extremists. Conditions remain far from "normal." While life here is getting better, the security situation impedes the Iraqi people's efforts to escape the morass they have been in for many years, and it limits what we can all do to help.

In the coming months, three major challenges need to be confronted. Without work, recent progress could be jeopardized. But it is encouraging—and should be recognized—that there is positive news on all three fronts.

The first challenge relates to the elections that took place Saturday in 14 of Iraq's 18 provinces. More than 14,000 candidates competed to sit on the local councils, many of them determined to help improve the poor delivery of public services such as electricity, water, sanitation, education and health care. The performance of most provincial councils elected four years ago has been so disappointing that a pronounced "throw the bums out" mentality exists in many places.

The United Nations has worked closely with the Iraqi Electoral Commission and others to ensure that these elections will be free and fair, training more than 60,000 electoral observers. Saturday's vote should increase Iraqis' confidence in their local institutions and in accountable democracy more generally. This time, the Sunni parties are not boycotting the elections, as most did four years ago, so their representation in some key provinces is likely to rise significantly. Local Sunni concerns will be democratically supported by their representatives, helping to promote national reconciliation.

The second challenge relates to the growing tensions between Arabs and Kurds. These tensions, based on historical, Baathist and more recent injustices in the swath of "disputed territories" to the south of Iraqi Kurdistan, especially the oil-rich province of Kirkuk, have infected almost every aspect of the political scene. They have impeded progress on the vital oil law, revenue-sharing and constitutional review; they brought the armed forces of the central government and the Kurdish region to the brink of conflict a few months ago; and they provoke the mutual distrust and unhelpful rhetoric that appears to paralyze governance at many levels.

Iraq's friends in the international community must encourage the national (and largely Arab) Iraqi and regional (Kurdish) leaderships to ratchet down tensions and explore new solutions for some of the most pressing issues: the oil law, Kirkuk, local security forces and the constitution. On a positive note, there is a growing desire among the various Kirkuki ethnic groups to reach a compromise that would be acceptable to the other communities living in Kirkuk, not just to their own. When I visited Kirkuk last month, this was the message I picked up from almost everyone I met.

The third challenge is the need for a greater willingness to seek national reconciliation at all levels and among all major groups: Sunni-Shiite, Shiite-Shiite, Sunni-Sunni, Arab-Kurd and Kurd-Kurd. As the United Nations works to promote the spirit of dialogue and reconciliation here, our staff has noted that "compromise" in Iraqi Arabic is often mistakenly translated as "tanazul," which has the connotation of "giving up on your principles." Given this mind-set, it's hardly surprising that identifying outcomes acceptable to all can be difficult.

Fortunately, during the past few months, there have been several issues, including the elections law and matters in the disputed areas, where tense political standoffs were ended when an impartial outsider presented a proposal that all sides could agree on as a face-saving win. A growing Iraqi willingness to forego the perfect solution for any one party is a positive sign. We must build on this recognition that compromise is the only way to proceed in a nascent democratic system, especially one with such profound wounds.

While the security situation is improving, political violence in Iraq will not simply end in the coming months. But 2009 is the second year running in which Iraqis will have a chance to experience real advances—along with inevitable hiccups—toward national sovereignty, democratic accountability, political stability, physical security and material prosperity. During the past two years, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has consistently encouraged U.N. staff members here to take an active approach in implementing our assistance mandate. The Iraqi people have suffered prolonged trauma of epic proportions. All of us must do whatever is possible to facilitate their progress on the road on which they have embarked.

Letter to the Editor

It's time to move forward

On March 1, 2007 Gov. Benigno Fitial ignored the call of the 15th Legislature and then Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio's call for a unified position in the building of a "framework for the federalization of our immigration policy" and independently acted on his own and without the consent of the people of the Commonwealth and our legislative branch to file a lawsuit against the United States government.

The following list is by no means an exhaustive one, but it was a starting point for further discussions in the process of creating a unique CNMI-centered immigration policy. Those items included:

1.) A visa waiver program to allow us to tap into existing markets as well as new markets of tourists;

2.) Exemption from H1 and H2 caps to avoid unnecessary delays in hiring workers in those categories;

3.) Grandfathering existing foreign investors;

4.) A carefully designed guest worker program, outside H1 and H2 job categories, to meet the CNMI's workforce requirements, which should be an integral part of a new immigration framework;

5.) Foreign student visas;

6.) Continued MOU with various federal agencies to provide for the enforcement of U.S. treaty obligations relating to refugees and asylum.

7.) The construction of a new Immigration framework that should prevent the political and social alienation of the Chamorros and Carolinian peoples;

8.) The creation of an Immigration board that will comprise members of both local and federal governments that would be authorized to make appropriate periodic changes to immigration regulations without having to pass new laws or regulations;

9.) Recommendation that a provision to mandate an independent study be done to evaluate the impact of changing the residency status of nonresident workers as it relates to the economic and political future of the CNMI.

Signed then by House of Representatives: Justo Quitugua, Arnold Palacios, Joseph Deleon Guerrero, Benjamin Seman, Candido Taman, Ramon Tebuteb, Manual Tenorio, Stanley Torres, Ray Yumul, Florencio DL Guerrero and Cinta Kaipat.

Senate: Senate Vice President Pete P. Reyes, Senator Felix Mendiola, Paul Manglona, Jude Hofschnieder, Frica Pangelinan, Paterno Hocog and Henry San Nicolas.

Taotao Tano states that these would have been the necessary tools in the efforts to build our economy without the expense of operating our own immigration system. We see no reason to continue fighting the ever growing consensus in Washington that only the sovereign federal government is truly capable of providing the international links necessary to secure our borders. With the ongoing decline in CNMI revenues, we do not believe that we can maintain an effective immigration program while trying to fund vital public services and under an overly critical eye of some members of Congress and the media.

Furthermore, the U.S. Congress and the federal administration had always requested that the CNMI speak with one voice on issues. In the past it was not always possible, and it may not be possible now but we do not feel that maintaining the "no modification" position of Gov. Benigno Fitial is productive, reasonable, or in the best interest of the people of the Northern Mariana islands and the people of the United States.

It's time to move forward.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

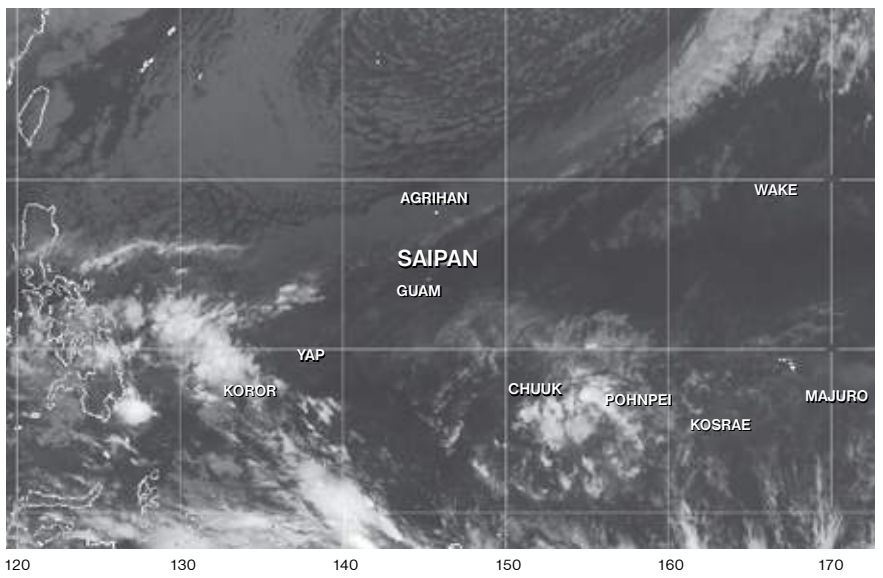
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲89	▼77
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼66
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲39	▼23
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼63
Honolulu	Showers	▲73	▼68
London	Rain/Snow	▲43	▼35
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲80	▼50
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼73
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼63
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼45
New York	Snow	▲33	▼18
Osaka	Rain	▲48	▼40
Paris	Showers	▲37	▼33
Pusan	Showers	▲55	▼41
Rome	Showers	▲59	▼49
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲53	▼34
San Francisco	Sunny	▲66	▼47
Seoul	Showers	▲46	▼37
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲49	▼37
Washington, DC	Snow	▲31	▼18

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, FEB. 2, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N159E to 18N148E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 11N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of the front and shear line. Further behind the shear line, cloudiness, rain and embedded scattered showers can be bound between 19N and 25N from 130E to 140E. A near-equatorial trough extends east-southeastward from a weak circulation at 3N131E to end at EQ152E. Convergence near the trough is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Palau within 150 miles of a line extending southeastward from 11N130E to EQ145E. Convergence near a weak surface trough arcing southward from 10N157E to 2N156E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Pohnpei within an area bounded by a line extending from 10N158E to 5N155E to 2N157E to 7N163E back to 10N158E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers east of the Marshall Islands between 4N and 8N from 177E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
11:38 AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:28 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
12:27 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
8:13 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:46 AM	12:02 AM
Wednesday	12:39 PM	1:07 AM
Thursday	1:38 PM	2:10 AM
Friday	2:42 PM	3:15 AM
Saturday	3:49 PM	4:17 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Saipan residents take charge of their health

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A woman, right, undergoes blood sugar check courtesy of volunteer nursing students of Northern Marianas College on Saturday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A nursing student of Emmanuel College gives a free flu shot to a young girl during Saturday's health fair at the Garapan Fishing Base.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of residents received free anti-flu shots, pap smear, blood pressure check, blood sugar count, cooking tips, informational materials about the prevention of lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, and giveaways like bags, mugs, hats and visors during Saturday's health fair at the Garapan Fishing Base.

"People should take advantage of the free services given during health fairs like this," Lolita Velasco, 53, told *Saipan Tribune*.

Velasco was one of 30 women who received free pap smear in the mobile clinic, for the early detection of cervical cancer. "Every year I undergo pap smear especially with my age now. I call on others to do the same," she said.

She brought along her15-year-old son, Darren Dones, a sophomore at Saipan Southern High School, who enjoyed the exhibits for their educational value. His girlfriend, Liz Alcazar, said she's encouraged to soon undergo pap smear, too.

"I'd be smarter in deciding what to do with my body, my health," said Alcazar after visiting the informational booths.

The health fair, which wrapped up the Cervical Cancer Awareness and Prevention Month celebration in January, was sponsored by the Department of Public Health and the Commonwealth Cancer Association, along with partner agencies in the public and private sectors.

"We really had a great turnout this year and we look forward to many of this kind of event," said Esther Seman, community outreach worker for DPH's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program.

Seman, who is also the chairperson of the Cervical Cancer Awareness Committee, said 18 exhibitors at the fair were able to reach out to many members of the community about the health services available to them and information on how they could lead healthy lives.

John Tagabuel, director of DPH's Bureau of Environmental Health, said the mobile clinic will also be visiting Kagman soon and other villages. Residents are asked to call 236-8703 for schedule of visits to their villages.

Erin Camacho, nutrition services coordinator at DPH's Women, Infants and Children Program, urged the community to visit the WIC office at its new location near the lighthouse or at the back of Brilliant School on Navy Hill. The new office number, she said, is 664-4084.

"There are lots of services for women, infant and children. For one, we promote breastfeeding and we'd like to see more women breastfeeding," she said.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb, the only member of the Legislature who visited the health fair, said the rate of cancer in the CNMI has been on the rise and the community needs to take a more active role in the prevention and treatment of these diseases.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Jacqueline de la Cruz, a Commonwealth Cancer Association volunteer, distributes educational materials about cancer prevention and treatment during Saturday's health fair at the Garapan Fishing Base.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Bernard Sabugo, left, holds his 5-year-old daughter Jaiden Kayla, while she was given free flu shot by a nursing student of Emmanuel College during Saturday's health fair at the Garapan Fishing Base. Also in photo is the child's mother, Eva Sabugo.

A 55-year-old woman, who requested anonymity, found out that her blood sugar level is now 285 mg/dl, which is very high.

Northern Marianas College nursing students, who got her blood sugar count, asked her to exercise, watch her diet, and consult a doctor. She agreed.

Twenty-one nursing students of Emmanuel College also gave anti-flu shots to children and adults at the health fair.

One of those who received the free vaccination was Jaiden Kayla Sabugo, 5, who was crying and clutching her father's arm while she was given the anti-flu shot. In between sobs, she listened to her father, Bernard Sabugo, as he tells her that everything will be fine and she won't have flu for a long time.

Other exhibitors at the fair included NMC-CREES, Marianas High School, Marianas Health Services, Ayuda Network and programs under DPH.

Mariana Trench nat'l monument a 'world of wonder'

Monument protects world environmental treasures

Where on earth can you find a bird that used volcanic heat to incubate its eggs? Or a boiling pool of liquid sulfur, discovered elsewhere only on one of Jupiter's moons? Or the earth's largest land-living arthropod, or the deepest point in the ocean?

The answer is in the new Mariana Trench Marine National Monument in the Northern Mariana Islands. The western Pacific island chain has become home to one of the largest marine reserves in the world with this month's creation of the 95,000 square mile monument by former U.S. President George W. Bush.

Bush designated the monument on Jan. 6, 2009, along with two others monuments in the Pacific. The designation ensures the protection of the rare resources within its boundaries.

"Because of its isolation, this quiet part of the world has remained largely untouched by man. Much of what the new monument protects can't be found anywhere else on earth," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "While our main islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota have attracted millions of tourists over the last several decades, the designation of the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument highlights the unique exploration opportunities of our lesser-traveled islands to the north. It's a world of wonder."

The monument includes the ocean area surrounding the northern most islands of Maug, Uracas, and Asuncion. This area also includes the Marianas Trench, the deepest canyon on earth. Among its diverse and remarkable underwater features are the only known boiling pool of liquid sulfur on earth; huge, active mud volcanoes; and highly acidic hydrothermal vents that provide a unique natural laboratory for the study of ocean acidification and its effects on coral reefs and shallow-water sea life.

The monument is home to 19 marine mammal species, including several rare species of beaked whales. The three islands shelter the endangered Micronesian megapode, which is the only bird known to use volcanic heat to incubate its eggs. Other animal species living within the monument boundaries include the threatened Marianas fruit bats, more than a dozen species of migratory seabirds with breeding populations numbering over 200,000, and giant coconut crabs—the largest land-living arthropod in the world.

"The biodiversity and geological features of the monument are a treasure trove still waiting to be explored," said Tenorio. "The designation of this conservation area ensures these natural wonders can be enjoyed and learned from for generations to come."

The Mariana Trench Marine National Monument is accessible via charter boat or helicopter. A state government permit is required to visit the three islands in the monument. ***(MVA)***

MEI staff attend eye conference in Hawaii

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Eye Institute sent its staff, from left, Erlinda Muleta, Dr. David Khorram, Joanne Pangelinan, Russ Quinn and Flor Racoma, to Hawaii in its effort to stay on the forefront of eye care.

Five members of the staff of Marianas Eye Institute attended the Royal Hawaiian Eye Conference, held Jan. 19-23 in Maui, Hawaii. The international conference, which is held annually, drew about 1,000 participants.

"This is a regular conference for us," said David Khorram, co-founder and medical director of Marianas Eye Institute.

It is known as a great conference because it draws an international faculty, and provides in-depth continuing medical education in areas ranging from cataract and lens implant surgery, to glaucoma, eye infections, and diabetic eye disease.

"Ophthalmology is a rapidly developing field, and although we participate in educational programs throughout the year, the Hawaiian Eye Conference provides an opportunity to interact with other leaders in the field, as well as with representatives of the technology side of the industry, and to put our hands on some of the new equipment being developed," said Dr. Khorram.

For the second year in a row, two ophthalmic technicians from Marianas Eye Institute attended the conference. Last year, Melonie Norita and Emilly Taitano attended. This year Lin Domingo Muleta and Joanne Castro Pangelinan participated in the conference.

"We really enjoyed it," said Castro-Pangelinan. "In addition to the section for ophthalmologists, there is a simultaneous conference for ophthalmic nurses and technicians," she explained.

Muleta said the conference provided not only the opportunity to learn new skills, but also to realize that the ophthalmic nurses and technicians at Marianas Eye Institute are as well trained, and actually more versatile, than those at leading eye centers around the country.

"We have a team approach to care at Marianas Eye Institute, and the commitment of the leadership to our ongoing training is highlighted by our attending this annual conference," she added.

Muleta, along with Emilly Taitano, are the first two ophthalmic technicians to successfully pass the national exam and receive the credentials of "Certified Ophthalmic Assistants."

In addition to the medical staff, Russ Quinn and Flor Racoma, from the administrative staff at Marianas Eye Institute, also attended the conference and participated in the session designed specifically for eye care administrators.

"On everyone's mind this year is the recession that is sweeping across the globe," said Quinn. "Our challenge is to continue to provide the highest quality of care in a cost-effective way. Even though things may be difficult financially, we feel it is important to continue to raise the quality of care in the region, and it is for this reason that we continue to invest in the development of our most important resource, the people who work at Marianas Eye Institute," said Quinn.

Marianas Eye Institute provides total eye care, including one-hour glasses, contacts, medical eye care, advanced cataract surgery, diabetic eye care, and laser. Marianas Eye Institute has been recognized by Retinal Physician Magazine as "one of the best equipped eye clinics in the Asia Pacific region." ***(MEI)***

CAMPUS COMPETITION

Members of the Northern Marianas College's Nursing Club take the blood pressure of NMC faculty and staff members at the campus gym. The Nursing Club offered their support to NMC's conscious effort to become healthier and lose weight in a campuswide competition modeled after the hit television show "The Biggest Loser."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MATH WHIZ

Congratulations to Frederic Dean Michael Manicdao Guintu, K-5 of Calvary Christian Academy, who joined the Math Court Competition on Jan. 31, 2009, at Dandan Elementary School. He competed in two events: Geometry/Measurement and Data Analysis, Statistics & Probability, and won first place in both events.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SDA to join national 'Give Kids A Smile Day!'

The Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic will be sponsoring a "Give Kids A Smile Day" this Friday, Feb. 6.

Give Kids A Smile® is an annual centerpiece of February, which is National Children's Dental Health Month and is observed every year on the first Friday in February. National Children's Dental Health Month focuses on providing oral health education to all children despite their economic status.

Give Kids A Smile was designed to provide education, preventative and restorative care to low-income children who do not have access to care.

The Seventh-day Adventist Clinic is ready to help meet the goal of Give Kids A Smile Day, which is to raise awareness of the critical need for access to oral health care.

This year, "Give Kids A Smile Day" will be held at the Saipan SDA Clinic on Friday, from 8am to 1pm. Call telephone number 234-6323 today to register qualifying children!

The overriding message of this event is that it is unacceptable that thousands upon thousands of children in 21st century America suffer needlessly from untreated dental disease. Give Kids A Smile is not a cure-all; it's a wake up call!

"We need to educate policymakers and parents that good oral health goes hand in hand with overall health and that preventative measures like fluoridation and sealants result in long-term savings," said the clinic in a statement.

The Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic goes to classrooms each week throughout the year to help motivate and instruct children in the proper care of their oral health.

Oral health is integral to overall health. Untreated dental disease is painful and affects a child's emotional, social and physical development. Children with untreated dental cavities can't eat or sleep properly nor can they concentrate in school. The good news is that dental disease is *preventable*! Prevention is the key and can save kids a lot of unnecessary pain. Brushing, flossing, eating a balanced diet, regular dental visits and having access to fluoride and sealants are ways to prevent dental disease. Ultimately, the money spent on prevention saves a lot more money in the future on dental treatment. ***(SDA)***

Business

No easy answers at Davos forum to global meltdown

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—Mired in indecision and uncertainty, the world's foremost gathering of the best and brightest in government and business failed to come up with any new plan to stem, much less reverse, the global financial meltdown.

The five-day World Economic Forum in this Swiss alpine resort wrapped up Sunday in the same atmosphere of doom and gloom that it began, with a realization that the depth of the crisis is still unknown and the solution remains elusive.

"Everybody's lost in Davos," said Kishore Mahbubani, dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore.

"No one seems to have a clear understanding of how big this crisis is and what we need to do to get out of it." he told AP. "My own view is that you really need to do a fundamental reexamination of the whole global system to see what went wrong, and nobody here is yet ready to ask these kinds of fundamental questions in Davos."

There was widespread agreement that there's plenty left to do, starting at the April meeting of leaders of the 20 largest economies in London.

"Now the hard work begins," the forum's founder, Klaus Schwab, said, calling for a redesign of the global systems of banking, financial regulation and corporate governance.

Cautioning that the G20 wouldn't be able to solve all the issues, Schwab announced that in a few weeks the forum would start a "Global Redesign Initiative" which he said was supported by almost every world leader who attended this year's forum, from China's Premier Wen Jiabao to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Previous celebrity guests such as Angelina Jolie, Sharon Stone and Bono were not invited to this year's forum and the spotlight fell instead, on world leaders like Wen, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the few bankers who showed up. The most talked-about world leader—President Barack Obama—didn't come to Davos, but many here had advice on what he should do on issues ranging from the financial crisis to promoting Mideast peace and dealing with Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Tensions over the recent war in Gaza flared, with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan stalking off the stage after a moderator insisted on cutting off his attempt to respond to Israeli President Shimon Peres' impassioned defense of Israel's air and ground attack.

Americans' saving more, spending less

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans are hunkering down and saving more. For a recession-battered economy, it couldn't be happening at a worse time.

Economists call it the "paradox of thrift." What's good for individuals—spending less, saving more—is bad for the economy when everyone does it.

On Friday, the government reported Americans' savings rate, as a percentage of after-tax incomes, rose to 2.9 percent in the last three months of 2008. That's up sharply from 1.2 percent in the third quarter and less than 1 percent a year ago.

Like a teeter-totter, when the savings rate rises, spending falls. The latter accounts for about 70 percent of economic activity. When consumers refuse to spend, companies cut back, layoffs rise, people pinch pennies even more and the recession deepens.

The downward spiral has hammered the retail and manufacturing industries. For years, stores enjoyed boom times as shoppers splurged on TVs, fancy kitchen decor and clothes. Suddenly, frugality is in style.

Grace Case, 38, of Syracuse, N.Y., is a self-described recovering creditaholic. For 13 years, she charged it all—cars, clothes, repairs, vacations. She'd make only the minimum card payments to sustain her buying spree for her and her family, which includes her husband and two children.

But after being laid off 2 1/2 years ago from her job as an accountant, she landed another accounting job that cut her salary from $60,000 to $40,000. It was impossible to meet minimum payments on her card balances.

Now, the Cases are on a strict budget. They take "staycations," grow their own vegetables, buy only used cars and pre-pay cell phones. Case hasn't used a credit card in two years. And she's saving more.

"It's really a liberating feeling," she said. "If you want something, you have to have the money for it."

Many economists think the savings rate will keep rising, perhaps as high as 6 percent or more.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Folding dealers shock car buyers with unpaid liens

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The national wave of auto dealership closures has come crashing down on thousands of people who are on the hook for used-car loans that dealers were supposed to absolve. When a car buyer still owes money on a vehicle he is trading in, the dealer promises to pay off the outstanding loan, then resells the vehicle. But as more dealers go out of business, some are sticking consumers with the bill. Lenders can then go after the previous owner who thought the debt was paid, or repossess the car from the new owner who assumed it came with clear title. "It's devastating for people when it happens because they have two car payments and they can't afford them," said Rosemary Shahan, president of Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety, a Sacramento-based nonprofit that lobbies on behalf of vehicle owners. "Their credit is destroyed for no fault of their own because the dealer defaulted."

Street braces for rush of corporate, economic data

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street is bracing for yet more reminders this week that the economy is in rotten shape. Companies from networking-gear maker Cisco Systems Inc. to media giant Time Warner Inc. are set to report quarterly results, while a steady stream of economic readings is also due. The most recent numbers from companies and the government haven't been roundly awful, but most have. That is stirring fears the economy's slide isn't slowing. On Friday, Wall Street learned that the economy posted its steepest slowdown in a quarter-century during the final three months of 2008. The 3.8 percent decline in the nation's gross domestic product wasn't as bad as Wall Street had forecast but investors grew worried that the numbers will only worsen. The stock market is coming off its weakest January on record. The benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index slid 8.57 percent for the month. The previous record was a 7.04 percent drop in January 1970. The tumble has investors nervous because January often sets the tone for the year.

Nation

GOP leaders doubt stimulus bill will pass Senate

AP

In this photograph provided by "Meet The Press", Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, talks about the stimulus package during a taping of "Meet The Press" at the NBC studios Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009 in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said Sunday the massive stimulus bill backed by President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats could go down to defeat if it's not stripped of unnecessary spending and focused more on housing issues and tax cuts.

The Senate version of the bill, which topped out at nearly $900 billion, is headed to the floor for debate. The House bill totaled about $819 billion and earned no Republican votes, even though it easily passed the Democratic-controlled House. At some point lawmakers will need to compromise on the competing versions.

McConnell and other Republicans suggested that the bill needed an overhaul because it doesn't pump enough into the private sector through tax cuts and allows Democrats to go on a spending spree unlikely to jolt the economy. The Republican leader also complained that Democrats had not been as bipartisan in writing the bill as Obama had said he wanted.

"I think it may be time ... for the president to kind of get a hold of these Democrats in the Senate and the House, who have rather significant majorities, and shake them a little bit and say, 'Look, let's do this the right way,'" McConnell said. "I can't believe that the president isn't embarrassed about the products that have been produced so far."

Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, said he was seeing an erosion of support for the bill and suggested that lawmakers should consider beginning anew.

"When I say start from scratch, what I mean is that the basic approach of this bill, we believe, is wrong," Kyl said.

While Democrats defended the bill, they said they were open to considering changes by Republicans. But they also said the unrelentingly bleak economic news demanded action.

Senator: Appointment wouldn't affect Senate makeup

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama was poised to tap Republican Sen. Judd Gregg as his commerce secretary but officials cautioned Sunday the move would not deliver Democrats complete control of the Senate as they had hoped.

Leading the pack to replace the fiscal conservative was his former chief of staff and a veteran of the Reagan White House, Bonnie Newman. Officials expect New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch, a Democrat, would name her to fill the final two years of Gregg's term. Newman would not seek the seat for a full term in 2010.

The move would allow Gregg to join the Cabinet without giving Democrats' unchecked power in Congress. It also would spare him a difficult re-election bid.

An administration official said Sunday evening that the White House would worry about the Cabinet pick, not the politics.

"The president will choose the best person for the job, and if it's Sen. Gregg, then Gov. Lynch will have the sole responsibility for choosing his replacement," the official said on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Gregg has told colleagues that if he becomes the third Republican in Obama's Cabinet—a decision that could come as early as Monday—his replacement would affiliate with the GOP, denying Democrats' total dominance, his party leader said Sunday.

ACROSS THE NATION

Thaw comes slowly to storm-ravaged Kentucky

CANEYVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Thousands of National Guard troops swinging chainsaws cut their way into remote communities Sunday to reach residents stranded by a deadly ice storm, freeing some to get out of their driveways for the first time in nearly a week. The soldiers went door-to-door handing out chili and beef stew rations to people cooped up in their powerless homes as authorities ratcheted up the relief effort for what Gov. Steve Beshear called the biggest natural disaster ever to hit the state. "It's going to be a long haul for us," Gov. Steve Beshear said Sunday as he toured hard-hit areas in and around Elizabethtown. "We've thrown everything we have at it. We're going to continue to do that until everyone is back in their homes and back on their feet." The sight of Humvees rolling up one street in rural Grayson County, about 90 miles southwest of Louisville, sent children bouncing off the walls inside the generator-powered house where Bryan Bowling and 18 other people have been hunkering down by a fireplace.

Inspection reports from peanut plant varied widely

BLAKELY, Ga. (AP)—A Georgia health inspector who toured the peanut butter plant now at the center of a national salmonella outbreak noted only two minor violations in October. Less than three months later, federal inspectors found roaches, mold, a leaking roof and other sanitation problems. Food safety experts say the lapse is a major concern and shows state inspectors are spread thin and might need more training on how to spot unsanitary conditions. "It's surprising to me that that many major deficiencies were observed at one time, and none of these were picked up previously," said Michael Doyle, head of the food safety center at the University of Georgia. In October, state inspector Donna Adams noted only two violations in her report on the Peanut Corp. of America plant: tote containers with butter residue and "black buildup" and "mildew and possibly some static dust on ceiling of butter storage room."

Asia

NKorea: Possible war with South

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea warned Sunday that South Korea's confrontational policies may trigger a war on the divided peninsula, a message coming two days after the communist country vowed to abandon all peace agreements with its southern neighbor.

Relations between the two Koreas have been strained since conservative President Lee Myung-bak took office nearly a year ago in Seoul, pledging to take a harder line on the North. Tension heightened Friday when the North said it was ditching a nonaggression pact and all other peace accords with South Korea.

The tension may lead to "an unavoidable military conflict and a war," North Korea's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary carried Sunday by the country's official Korean Central News Agency.

"The policy of confrontation" by the South Korean government is "the very source of military conflicts and war" between the Koreas, it said.

The North has accused Lee's government of preparing to stage a war, which South Korea denies. Earlier this month, the North's military declared it adopted an "all-out confrontational posture" to defeat any southern aggression.

In its Friday statement, the North said it would no longer respect a disputed sea border with the South on the west of the peninsula, raising the prospect for a new armed clash in the area—already the scene of bloody naval skirmishes in 1999 and 2002.

President Lee sought to downplay the statement and called it "not unusual." He indicated his government will wait until the North is ready for talks in good faith.

A South Korean Defense Ministry official said Sunday that the country's navy remains on alert along the western sea border. The official—speaking on condition of anonymity citing department policy—said the ministry has not detected any unusual movements of the North Korean military.

AP

A South Korean Army soldier walks by a signboard showing distances to North Korea's capital Pyongyang from Imjingang railway station near the demilitarized zone (DMZ) of Panmunjom, South Korea, in Imjingak, north of Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Jan. 30, 2009.

UN diplomat meets with Suu Kyi

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The United Nations' special envoy to Myanmar met with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Monday in an effort to promote political reform in the military-ruled country, government officials said.

The meeting between U.N. envoy Ibrahim Gambari and Suu Kyi took place at the state guest house to which the Nobel Peace prize laureate was driven from her house arrest in a Yangon villa, said the officials who declined to give their names because they were not authorized to speak to the press.

Gambari arrived Saturday for a four-day visit, the seventh of his trips to Myanmar, which have failed to produced significant results.

Gambari told diplomats earlier that his objectives are to urge the release of political prisoners, discuss the country's ailing economy and revive a dialogue between Suu Kyi and the junta.

It was unclear whether Gambari would see junta leader Senior Gen. Than Shwe, who has shunned the envoy during his last three visits.

The country's pro-democracy movement has been disappointed by Gambari's previous visits, which have failed to secure the release of Suu Kyi.

Suu Kyi, 63, who has spent more than 13 of the past 19 years under house arrest, refused to see Gambari during his last visit in August.

The U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed frustration after Gambari's August visit when the junta ignored requests that it release political prisoners and resume dialogue with Suu Kyi.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Volcano erupts near Tokyo raining ash down on city

TOKYO (AP)—A volcano erupted near Tokyo early Monday, spewing a plume of smoke more than a mile (1.6 kilometers) high and raining ash down on parts of the city. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. Mount Asama, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) northwest of Tokyo, erupted at 1:51 am (0451 GMT) Monday, according to Japan's Meteorological Agency. Chunks of rock from the explosion were found about 3,300 feet (1,000 meters) away from the volcano. The agency said volcanic ash fell on nearby areas as well as parts of Tokyo. TV reports showed neighborhoods sprinkled with white flakes. An alert level of three, which urges nearby residents to take caution, was kept in place for a 2.5 mile (4 kilometer) radius.

Afghan street protests after US raid kills 2

KABUL (AP)—Hundreds of Afghans demonstrated Sunday against an overnight U.S. military raid that one villager said killed several civilians. The American military said its forces only killed two militants. The angry protesters gathered on the main highway linking Kabul and Kandahar near the site of the raid, the latest to stir up Afghan ire against foreign forces accused of killing civilians. Also Sunday, a suicide bomber in a car attacked a convoy of foreign troops in Kabul, wounding two Afghans, police said. Taliban militants claimed responsibility for the attack.

China dairy boss appeals sentence in milk scandal

BEIJING (AP)—A dairy boss is appealing the life sentence she received for involvement in a tainted milk scandal that sickened hundreds of thousands of Chinese children, state media said Sunday. Tian Wenhua submitted an appeal Sunday to the People's High Court in Hebei province, saying there was a lack of evidence supporting the charges against her, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing her lawyer, Liang Zikan. At her trial in December, Tian pleaded guilty to charges of producing and selling fake or substandard products after infant formula tainted with the industrial chemical melamine was blamed in the deaths of at least six babies and the illnesses of nearly 300,000 others.

World

Iraqi election hints of troubles for Shiite giant

BAGHDAD (AP)—The biggest Shiite party in Iraq once appeared to hold all the political sway: control of the heartland, the backing of influential clerics and a foot in the government with ambitions to take full control.

But the days of wide-open horizons could be soon ending for the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council, and replaced by important shifts that could be welcomed in Washington and scorned in Tehran.

The signs began to take shape Sunday with hints of the voter mood from provincial elections.

The broad message—built on Iraqi media projections and postelection interviews—was that the eventual results would punish religious-leaning factions such as the Supreme Council that are blamed for stoking sectarian violence, and reward secular parties seen capable of holding Iraq's relative calm.

The outcome of the provincial races will not directly effect Iraq's national policies or its balance between Washington's global power and Iran's regional muscle. But Shiite political trends are critically important in Iraq, where majority Shiites now hold sway after the fall of Saddam Hussein's Sunni-dominated regime.

"There is a backlash from Iraqis against sectarian and religious politics," said Mustafa al-Ani, an Iraqi political analyst based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Although official results from Saturday's provincial elections are likely still days away, the early outlines are humbling for The Supreme Council. The group had been considered a linchpin in Iraqi politics as a junior partner in the government that had near seamless political control in the Shiite south.

Some forecasts point to widespread losses for the party across the main Shiite provinces. The blows could include embarrassing stumbles in the key city of Basra and the spiritual center of Najaf—hailed as the future capital in the Supreme Council's dreams for an autonomous Shiite enclave.

In their place, the big election winners appear to be allies of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, according to projections and interviews with political figures who spoke on condition of anonymity because official results are not posted.

It's a vivid lesson in Iraq's fluid politics.

Israel strikes Gaza after militant rocket fire

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel threatened "harsh and disproportionate" retaliation after Gaza militants fired at least 10 rockets and mortar shells across the border Sunday and warplanes later bombed the area where Hamas smuggles in weapons from Egypt through tunnels.

The flare-up raised the risk of intensifying violence in the days leading up to Israel's parliamentary elections on Feb. 10.

A late afternoon mortar barrage on the southern Israeli village of Nahal Oz, next to the Gaza border fence, wounded two soldiers and a civilian, the military and rescue services said. Earlier, a rocket landed near a kindergarten, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said.

Late Sunday, Palestinians reported huge explosions as Israeli warplanes dropped bombs on the Egypt-Gaza border area, where Hamas operates tunnels to smuggle in weapons, food and other goods, Palestinians said.

Israeli aircraft first flew over the area in southern Gaza setting off sonic booms. Residents said hundreds of people who work in the tunnels fled, then waited in the streets of the border city, Rafah, for the attacks to end so they could return.

The Israeli military said warplanes attacked six tunnels and also an unspecified Hamas post in northern Gaza. No casualties were reported from any of the bombings.

Since an unwritten truce ended Israel's offensive in Gaza two weeks ago, rocket and mortar fire from the Palestinian territory has increased steadily. Israeli retaliation, including brief ground incursions and bombing runs aimed at rocket launchers and smuggling tunnels, is intensifying.

Even before the mortars hit Nahal Oz, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told his Cabinet that "if there is shooting at residents of the south, there will be an Israeli response that will be harsh and disproportionate by its nature."

WORLD BRIEFS

Helicopter lands with 4 freed Colombian hostages

BOGOTA (AP)—Colombia's badly battered FARC rebels delivered three police officers and a soldier to the International Red Cross on Sunday in a mission marred by accusations of military interference. A Brazilian military helicopter, emblazoned with the Red Cross insignia, retrieved the four hostages from a longtime guerrilla stronghold in Colombia's southern jungles. A reporter accompanying the mission said it was hounded by military overflights. "The operation was basically on the verge of being aborted," Jorge Enrique Botero told the Venezuelan television network Telesur by satellite phone just before the handover. He said he had recordings to prove it. Colombia's peace commissioner, Luis Carlos Restrepo, called the allegations "baseless." He said the government honored an agreement with the Red Cross for no military flights beneath 20,000 feet (6,100 meters) during the liberation.

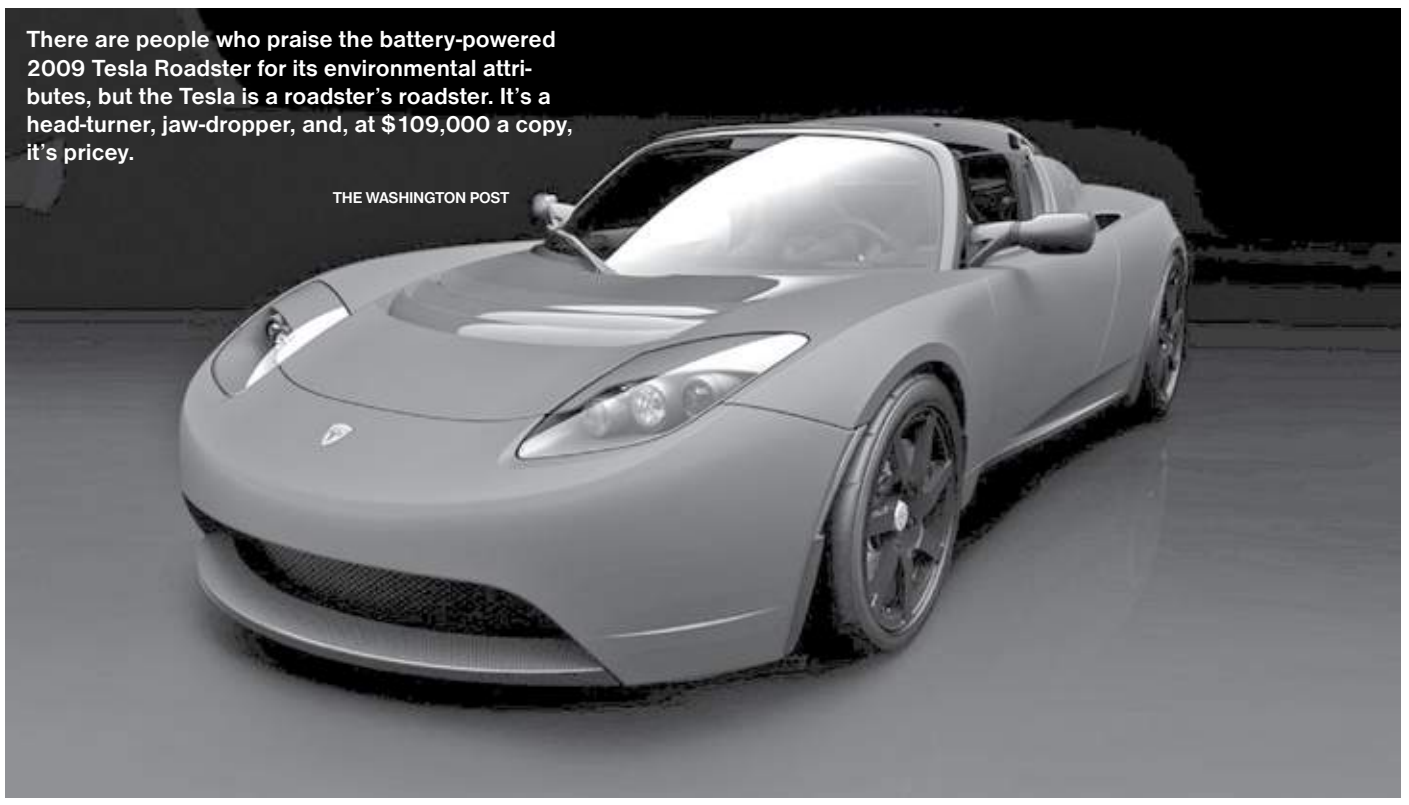
More than 100 dead in Kenya gasoline blaze

MOLO, Kenya (AP)—The explosion of an overturned tanker could be felt for miles, and the moments that followed haunted survivors: People ablaze, their clothes burned off, running to the bush in a futile effort to escape the pain and begging for help. More than 100 people were killed, and another 200 injured in the inferno overwhelmed hospitals Sunday, where victims lined the floors, hooked to drips and moaning in pain. Authorities expected the death toll to rise and were searching the scorched woods for corpses. Hundreds of impoverished people had flocked to the overturned tanker Saturday to siphon fuel when it exploded, likely sparked by a cigarette. "Everybody was screaming and most of them were running with fire on their bodies, they were just running into the bush," said Charles Kamau, 22, who was driving through Molo on Saturday night when he saw the road blocked by hundreds of people with gerry cans, plastic bottles and buckets—anything to siphon some free fuel.

Overdrive

2009 TESLA ROADSTER

A jaw-dropping ride, batteries included



There are people who praise the battery-powered 2009 Tesla Roadster for its environmental attributes, but the Tesla is a roadster's roadster. It's a head-turner, jaw-dropper, and, at $109,000 a copy, it's pricey.

THE WASHINGTON POST

By WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Let us begin with definitions.

First, there is the circle. It is round. It has circumference, the outer limits of its roundness. It has a center and a radius, the latter being the straight-line distance from the circle's center to its circumference.

Next, there is the tangent. It is a line that touches exactly one point of a circle's circumference. That line can be an actual line; or, for purposes of this discussion, it can be the force exerted at any one point on the edge of a circle in the exact direction of the circle's rotation multiplied by the circle's radius.

Physicists and engineers call that force torque, which is best understood in automotive terms as engine twisting power and efficiency.

Torque well-delivered makes things go. You can have all the horsepower in the world. But if the energy from all of that muscle gets gobbled up and lost in the generation and transmission of twisting power, you'll have a car that goes much slower and consumes more fuel than it should.

Thus, we come to the genius and excitement of this week's test car, the Tesla Roadster. Tesla's marketers say the car delivers 100 percent torque 100 percent of the time. That's a bit of a stretch. Something always gets lost in the transmission and use of power.

But it is reasonable to agree that the Tesla Roadster delivers at least 90 percent of its torque at least 90 percent of the time, which is far better than the torque delivery of cars and trucks powered by internal combustion engines.

The Tesla Roadster is powered by batteries—a dense pack of lithium-ion cells that feed juice to a 375-volt AC (alternating current) induction, air-cooled electric motor with variable frequency drive.

That motor, which provides the gasoline-engine equivalent of 248 horsepower and 276 foot-pounds of torque, powers the Tesla's rear wheels via a single-speed, direct-drive transmission. Judging from a day behind the wheel of the car, that speed is fast!

There are people who praise the Tesla Roadster for its environmental attributes. It consumes no fossil fuels, spews no tailpipe emissions and leaves a relatively minor carbon footprint. But all of that is missing the point, because those are also attributes of the decidedly non-sexy, campus utilitarian, golf-cart-like cars assembled by Global Electric Motorcars, a Chrysler company.

Tesla, by comparison, is a roadster's roadster. It's a head-turner, jaw-dropper. It is sexy as all get-out. And, at $109,000 a copy, it's pricey.

The Tesla Roadster deliberately eschews utility and what many motorists deem creature comforts—such as power steering and a power-operated convertible roof. Turning the Tesla's steering wheel at low speeds requires good arm strength.

The car has seats for two people. But whoever is sitting in the passenger's seat had better buckle up and be prepared to hang on to his or her gut.

The Tesla is built for one purpose and one purpose only, which is to go as fast and as far as possible on battery power, which it does. It can run heartily for 200 miles on a single charge, after which a 3.5-hour plug-in in a washer-dryer-like 220-to-240-volt household outlet is required to restore full battery power. Slower speeds can yield a single-charge driving range of up to 240 miles.

But here's betting that no one slipping behind the steering wheel of the Tesla Roadster will be inclined to nurse it along the highway in pursuit of hypermileage. That is not at all what the car is about.

Would you like to know what smooth, nearly instant torque feels like? Wheeeeeee! Drive a Tesla, even if you have to fly to Tesla's Menlo Park, Calif., headquarters, to get your hands on one for a day. You will never again think horsepower is more important than torque.

Nor will you have the same tactile, emotional appreciation of automotive acceleration that marked your enjoyment of high-powered, internal combustion engines.

Wheeeeeee! If this is the future of the automobile, I want it. Let's do whatever we can to get the price down.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

WARNING
Like most fine roadsters, the Tesla is a hard-driving car designed for motorists who value performance and handling above all else. It is not for drivers who want to be pampered.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
The ride is hard and bumpy, especially over poorly maintained streets. But over well-maintained roads, ride is good, and acceleration and handling are hot and smooth.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
It gets maximum attention. It snapped necks, turned heads and dropped jaws everywhere.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The Tesla Roadster is a limited edition, battery-powered, two-seat, rear-wheel-drive luxury sports car with a manually removable fabric roof.

MOTOR/TRANSMISSION
The 375-volt AC induction, air-cooled electric motor has a maximum net power of 185 kilowatts, the equivalent of 248 horsepower deliverable between 4,500 and 8,500 revolutions per minute. Batteries are lithium-ion type. Torque is the gasoline-engine equivalent of 276 foot-pounds, deliverable—wheeeeeee!—from 0 to 4,500 revolutions per minute. Rear-wheel power is transmitted via a single-speed fixed gear.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for two people and trunk space for two tiny, soft-pack overnight bags.

DRIVING RANGE
Make a choice. You want a longer driving range, say, up to 240 miles per 3.5-hour plug-in charge? Slow down. You want to run as fast as possible between charges, cutting your single-charge driving range to 200 miles or less? Hit the power pedal. But keep in mind that law enforcement officials will not be amused.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes four-wheel disc brakes with antilock backup; two front air bags; and seat belts, and electronic traction control to help reduce skidding. Electronic stability control, to help reduce loss of driving control due to steering errors, was not available at this writing.

PRICE
For the tested 2009 Tesla Roadster, you're looking at $109,000 with a refundable $5,000 deposit. There is an estimated 12-month wait per order. Contact Tesla Motors at www.teslamotors.com/buy/resyourcar.php. Price is sourced from Tesla Motors and Edmunds.com.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
Tesla Roadster pricing more closely reflects the current reality of advanced electric vehicle technology. That price eventually will come down, allowing that technology to be applied to more mass-market models.

48 mpg is nice, but hybrids don't add up right now

NEW YORK (AP)—Last summer was a good time to be in the hybrid business. Gas prices climbed to new records, and Toyota couldn't make its Prius fast enough as drivers turned their heads with envy at the sight of the gas-sipper's eye-catching sloping roofline.

Just a few months later, pump prices have collapsed, and so too have sales of gas-electric vehicles, which have lost ground along the way to cheaper but still fuel-efficient conventional vehicles.

Paying thousands of extra dollars for a hybrid car when gas topped $4 a gallon wasn't unreasonable because with enough driving, it only took a few years to recoup the added cost. But with the economy mired in a recession and fuel prices at their lowest in six years, pinched consumers seem less willing to fork over the extra thousands of dollars for a car that coaxes just a few extra miles out of a gallon of gas.

At this point, buying a hybrid makes as much economic sense as buying a gas-guzzling SUV did last summer.

"The cost-benefit analysis doesn't support the decision to buy one of these higher-priced hybrids today," said Stephen Spivey, senior auto analyst for the consulting firm Frost & Sullivan. "Obviously, if fuel prices go back up, it's going to be more attractive to look at a hybrid."

Automakers are counting on just that. Toyota Motor Corp. on Sunday unveiled its Lexus HS250h hybrid sedan at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, and the Japanese carmaker plans to introduce a redesigned 2010 Prius on Monday. The Japanese automaker has said gas-electric hybrids are its long-term core powertrain strategy, and by early in the next decade it will launch as many as 10 new hybrid models.

Meanwhile, Honda Motor Co. unveiled its new Insight hybrid, which will go on sale in April and compete head-on with the Prius. The car will be priced lower than the slightly larger, $23,650 Civic hybrid, a sign that Honda is targeting penny-pinching consumers.

"Hybrid is important if it's affordable and it carries the right image," said John Mendel, Honda's U.S. executive vice president. Hybrids have an image of having a high cost to get their technology, he said, but with the Insight, "we'll try to change that paradigm a little bit and say this is hybrid for the masses."

Ford Motor Co. unveiled a hybrid version of the Ford Fusion in November that can go up to 47 mph on batter power alone, and General Motors Corp. has turned out a number of hybrid versions of its vehicles recently, like the Chevrolet Malibu and the Saturn Vue.

But the cost of regular gasoline has fallen 56 percent from its all-time summer high, averaging $1.79 on Sunday, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express.

Hybrid sales plunged 43 percent in December and 50 percent in November, according to the auto Web site Edmunds.com, surpassing the industry's overall sales decline of 36 percent in December and 37 percent the month before.

Life & Style

Springsteen delivers promised party at Super Bowl

Bruce Springsteen performs during halftime of the NFL Super Bowl XLIII football game between the Arizona Cardinals and the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, in Tampa, Fla.

AP

Bruce Springsteen looked into the camera Sunday night and told the people watching at home to "put the chicken fingers down and turn the television all the way up!"

Then he proceeded to give the Super Bowl crowd and the millions watching on TV three high-energy Boss standards, with the title song from his new album wedged in among them for good measure.

Springsteen then threw himself into his four-song set, a highly anticipated series of songs that had Las Vegas oddsmakers taking bets on which tunes he'd select. He opened with "Tenth Avenue Freeze-Out," and worked in one of his trademark across-the-stage knee slides.

The move wasn't without risk: He slid into one of the on-stage cameras, and seemed to be winded when he transitioned into "Born to Run."

Next up was his newest piece, "Working on a Dream," which was backed by a choir. He then closed out with a playful version of "Glory Days" that fittingly altered the lyrics to fit the occasion: Springsteen's old high school buddy was "a big football player" instead of "baseball," and threw a "Hail Mary" instead of a "speed ball."

He and guitarist Steven Van Zandt then toyed with the crowd as the show came to an end, looking at their watches as the clock wound down. Worried they were about to hit "penalty time," (a referee even raced out and threw a yellow flag), they closed it out right on time.

"I'm going to Disneyland!" the 59-year-old rocker shouted at the end.

Springsteen, dressed all in black, came out Sunday night with the considerable challenge of packing the bombastic energy of one of his rollicking, three-hour concerts into an abbreviated Super Bowl halftime set.

That turned out to be no problem. He had fireworks, an expansive stage, about 1,000 people on the field and help from a Raymond James Stadium crowd equipped with small flashlights.

A five-piece horn section helped saxophonist Clarence Clemons blast out "Tenth Avenue Freeze-Out," and a gospel choir came on stage to back Springsteen, his wife and bandmate, Patti Scialfa, and guitarist Steven Van Zandt during "Working on a Dream," the title song from his 24th album.

Springsteen and his E Street Band had turned down numerous invitations to play the halftime show, declining the high-profile time slot because it was a bit beneath them.

Then the show slowly started to draw legitimate acts—U2, The Rolling Stones, Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers, to name a few—and Springsteen changed his view of performing in the middle of a football game.

Springsteen is riding a new wave of exposure and popularity, playing for President Barack Obama in Washington before the inauguration, releasing his new album this week and winning a Golden Globe award for his song from the Mickey Rourke movie "The Wrestler."

In 1988, Chubby Checker was the first popular musician to perform at halftime, and Michael Jackson raised the bar in 1993. His sister Janet provided the show's most infamous moment with 2004's "wardrobe malfunction."

The show was directed by Don Mischer, who has directed opening and closing ceremonies for two Olympic Games, as well as last month's inauguration concert at the Lincoln Memorial. ***(AP)***

Hudson performs for 1st time since Oct. slayings

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—After one deep breath, Jennifer Hudson returned to the spotlight Sunday with a flawless performance of the national anthem before the Super Bowl.

Wearing a flowing white top with black pants and a cropped black jacket, the 27-year-old singer/actress looked apprehensive when she first climbed onto the round blue stage on the field of Raymond James Stadium. Then she took the breath and launched into the anthem.

Hudson used the Super Bowl's massive television audience for her first public appearance since the October slayings in Chicago of her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew. Her estranged brother-in-law has been charged in the killings.

Hudson, who clocked in at 2 minutes, 13 seconds, looked relieved when she was through.

When she returned to her dressing room, she anxiously asked pre-game show producer Rickey Minor "How did I do?"

"I told her 'Touchdown!'" Minor told The Associated Press after the performance.

"This was such an important performance, because it's the first time everyone has seen Jennifer. But she's in such a great place, with such great spirits and time can heal her wounds. She's on fire right now and totally grounded."

Minor, the music director for American Idol, has produced numerous Super Bowl pre-game performances, including Whitney Houston's 1991 anthem in Tampa that's considered the benchmark for singers.

Minor said Hudson's two cell phones lit up "like slot machines" following her performance, and she received a moving text message from Jamie Foxx, her co-star in "Dreamgirls."

"His text said 'Amazing. It brought tears to my eyes,'" Minor said. "She's just getting so much love."

Minor said Hudson was very calm and prepared, and he counseled her to take the deep breath before she began so she could put herself in the moment. Although entertainers can perform live, Minor insisted that Hudson and Faith Hill, who sang "America the Beautiful" before the national anthem, use the tracks the NFL requires them to submit a week before the game.

AP

Singer Jennifer Hudson performs the National Anthem at the start of the NFL Super Bowl XLIII football game, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, in Tampa, Fla.

"That's the right way to do it," Minor said. "There's too many variables to go live. I would never recommend any artist go live because the slightest glitch would devastate the performance."

Singing the national anthem at the Super Bowl is considered a prestigious invitation, with all artists trying to match or better Houston's version, which was performed during the first Iraq war.

But Hudson's performance was more personal than patriotic.

"She's from the church," Minor said. "So we wanted to give it a gospel feel, use a little organ, rhythm and really give it a feel that matched Jennifer. We wanted her to emote the lyrics and connect with the song."

Hill, who performed the anthem in 2000 in Atlanta, praised the former American Idol contestant for choosing the Super Bowl as her return.

"She is a strong girl, a girl of faith," Hill said during an NFL news conference earlier this week to introduce the entertainment. "I believe to come and perform the national anthem, which is this country's favorite song, at a time that our country is stepping up and moving forward for future generations—I think it's just the perfect choice."

Hudson's now expected to resume her active work schedule. Hudson, who won an Oscar for best supporting actress for her role in "Dreamgirls," is scheduled to perform at next week's Grammy Awards. And her new video for "If This Isn't Love" is set to debut the week of Feb. 9.

Hudson has yet to speak publicly about the slayings.

Is there any 'Doubt' Streep's in the running?

By RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Did former presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani influence Meryl Streep's portrayal of conservative avenging nun Sister Aloysius in "Doubt"? Consider, there is that moral certitude, the strange pursing of the lips, the occasionally maniacal righteousness. "I'll never tell," giggles Streep, then she slyly suggests a certain affinity between the two, that like Sister Aloysius, who's quite convinced of her own rectitude, Giuliani "is one of these people who is sure. He's sure. It's a great quality in a leader. People don't like vacillation. You know, if you trust your life or your children to this person, you want a hard (you know what) there in charge at St. Nicholas," the Bronx school where "Doubt" is set. Well, yes, maybe you did in 1964, when the movie takes place.

The film, which John Patrick Shanley directed and adapted from his Pulitzer Prize-winning play, is a dialogue-driven showdown between traditional disciplinarian Sister Aloysius, the school's principal, and liberal, progressive priest Father Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman), whom she suspects of having molested the school's only black student. The evidence is inconclusive, but Sister Aloysius' certainty is unshakable.

Unlike the stern, humorless Sister Aloysius, who could very well give anxiety attacks to anyone who attended such Catholic schools in the mid-'60s, la grande Streep is loose and wry in person. That's somewhat an achievement in Zen, considering she's spending much of this Oscar season dutifully visiting the various guilds in Los Angeles, giving talks and interviews about the film.

The 59-year-old is dressed in an oversize, glossy, olive-colored shirt, jeans and square glasses that slightly obscure her luminous skin and high cheekbones (which appear ridiculously undiminished by time). Streep has earned the most Oscar nominations of any actor (she's now at 15 with last week's lead actress nod for "Doubt"), although she has won only two of the awards, the last more than 25 years ago for "Sophie's Choice." There have been myriad trips to the Academy Awards with nothing to take home but memories.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Meryl Streep cut loose and had some fun earlier this year in "Mamma Mia!" but now she's back in a dramatic role in "Doubt."

None of which has eased Streep's perennial discomfort with the red-carpet frenzy. "I don't know how to be," she says. "I just always feel like I'm in costume. And I am. And borrowed jewelry. The event is weird. The thing of feeling part of the community, the acting community and the film community ... that's kind of great. To see people whose work I really do admire and I really don't know them, so I get to come up like a fan and say, 'I really thought you were great in this.' That's fun. But not the hyperbole of the whole...," she struggles for a word. Hoopla? "It gets insane. Have you ever walked the red carpet?"

Actually, no.

"Your head explodes," she says, describing the experience. "And (the reporters are) shouting at you, 'What do you think? Are you excited?' Every year, I try to figure out how I can go to the Oscars and not do the red carpet." Once, her "Ironweed" and "Heartburn" co-star Jack Nicholson "told me where the back door at the Shrine was and I couldn't find it," she said of the former home to the Academy Awards.

When Shanley was putting together the film, it was abundantly clear to him who should play Sister Aloysius. "If I asked 10 people on the subway who should play the part, they'd all say Meryl Streep. It was a no-brainer," Shanley says. "A role and actress pull together like two planets. She's it."

Streep enfolded herself into every aspect of the stern nun's personality. Or, as Shanley describes her process, "If I'd asked her how to drive a sports car as Sister Aloysius, she'd know how Sister Aloysius would have done that."

Streep prepared by spending time with Shanley's first-grade teacher, Sister Peggy, and other nuns. Her efforts were rewarded Sunday night with a SAG award for lead actress.

"Nuns are easy comedy, so we have made fun of them from Monty Python to Chris Durang, but I think there's something that's confounding to the outside world about women who reject all the things that most women build their entire lives around, which is getting a man, getting a husband and the children and looking good," Streep says. "And they just jettison all of that, and there's great liberation in that, I think."

It's long been Streep's inclination to inhabit women who've somehow been misjudged, even marginalized, by society and to give them back their dignity. Such roles include Holocaust survivor Sophie Zawistowski in "Sophie's Choice," Lindy Chamberlain, who lost her baby to a dingo in "A Cry in the Dark," and even Miranda Priestly, the icy fashion-magazine editor that Streep plays so effectively in the comedy "The Devil Wears Prada." What gives the fashionista Priestly her zing is not just the hauteur, but also her unexpected pathos.

The actress clearly also takes a sympathetic view of Sister Aloysius as someone who is driven to fight against the misogyny of the church, to protect the innocent no matter the cost. But is she right? With its purposeful ambiguity, "Doubt" is designed to divide audiences and leave them battling over whether Father Flynn is guilty. Striding down the school halls, her ferocity and anger barely contained by her black habit, Sister Aloysius can be seen either as a retrograde, pleasure-denying authoritarian or as a righteous angel of the defenseless.

Streep says she thought of Sister Aloysius like the Nicholson character in "A Few Good Men," the obstreperous Marine colonel who famously yells, "You can't handle the truth!" when his tactics are questioned. Female truth-tellers have always had a hard time, particularly those like Sister Aloysius.

"She's a dragon and scary and hideous to us, I think, because she's a woman," Streep says with great certainty, "but she's just doing Jack's job."

TV Review: NBC scores with Super Bowl

By DOUGLAS J. ROWE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Nothing succeeds like excess for the network covering the Super Bowl.

NBC succeeded by sticking to the formula, starting a full 5 1/2 hours before kickoff with its "Sunday Night Football" theme music—the tune that sounds like it was borrowed from a sword-and-sandal flick.

Chris Collinsworth and Bob Costas appeared on the pirate ship at Raymond James Stadium, and Costas promised: "Super Bowl Sunday is a game, yes. But it's also a national party, and over the next five hours we'll capture as much of the football and frivolity as we can."

Frivolous, and maybe even a little fatuous.

Some of the show inevitably felt forced and foolish. But, overall, NBC delivered solid coverage, using a 300-frame-per-second "X-Mo" cam for replays on each goal line and at midfield.

"Today" personality Al Roker's thankless job was to have various celebrities come on to flog their latest projects (who won't be identified and given further free promotion here).

And there was face time aplenty for stars of NBC Universal's various programs and outlets: NBC's "Nightly News" anchorman Brian Williams, "Today" host Matt Lauer, Bravo's "Top Chef" martinet Tom Colicchio.

Even CNBC's Money Honey, Maria Bartiromo, got to offer a "Business Brief" culminating with her crowing that NBC set an ad revenue record for its Super Bowl commercial sales.

Bet the boss loved that—and we're not talking about halftime act Bruce Springsteen.

Once the game got under way, Al Michaels provided spot-on play-by-play—as always—keeping on top of the action with alacrity and accuracy. And when he gets excited, it feels real—something we've known since the 1980 Winter Olympics.

And while it's hard not to think of Frank Caliendo's John Madden impersonation, marked by incoherent ranting, the ex-coach clearly delivers observations and insights without devolving into the arcane world of Xs and Os.

Michaels and Madden played off each other as well as ever, too.

When Pittsburgh QB Ben Roethlisberger went over to the sideline trying to decide what play to call, Michaels said:

"He has a 150 to 200 plays on that wristband so maybe they needed some help with the Dewey decimal system to find it."

"Just imagine what the print looks like on that," Madden responded.

"You gotta have Ted Williams' eyesight," Michaels theorized.

At the football desk, Matt Millen's rehabilitation as a studio commentator continued in the aftermath of his firing as team president of the Detroit Lions—who had an unprecedented winless season in 2008. He joined ex-coaches Tony Dungy and Mike Holmgren, who came across as fresh faces—even with something fresh to say.

Talking about Cardinals head coach Ken Whisenhut, whom the Steelers passed over as coach in favor of Mike Tomlin, Holmgren bluntly averred: "Any coach that says they don't like playing against their old team and it's just another game—they're not telling you the whole truth."

Unfortunately, NBC had audio problems during Lauer's interview with President Barack Obama in the White House map room. But the network didn't pull away, and quickly fixed the sound, allowing viewers to hear him talk seriously about foreign issues and the economy before turning to football and reiterating that he's rooting for the Steelers. (Steelers owner Dan Rooney endorsed Obama's presidential bid and campaigned for him.)

NBC's pregame marathon succeeded in being fast-paced, using shorter features and allowing the talent to tell stories.

Costas' tete-a-tete with Springsteen was entertaining, with pop-culture maven Costas asking The Boss why he chose to do the halftime show this year after being asked numerous times before.

"I have an album to promote, dummy," Springsteen cackled. "It's not rocket science."

What refreshing honesty. Leave it to Springsteen.

There also was an emotionally touching feature focused on Cardinals receiver Larry Fitzgerald, who had a falling-out with his mother and then didn't reconcile with her before she died.

And knowing about the heartache Jennifer Hudson suffered from the October slayings of her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew, her performance of the national anthem felt particularly brave and stirring.

The chemistry between Keith Olbermann and Dan Patrick that goes back to their co-anchoring days on ESPN's "SportsCenter" was on display after Olbermann recounted a history of the peripatetic Cardinals franchise and the team's six-decade-long futility. Once Olbermann finished, Patrick yanked his chain by trying to draw a comparison between the Super Bowl and politics. But Olbermann pretended not to bite, declining to transform into the MSNBC pitbull-pundit he's become, and joking that he didn't know anything about the subject.

"Poli ...," he stammered.

Then, he ventured: "Polamalu."

"Somewhere, Bill O'Reilly is smiling," Patrick cracked.

'Taken' captures $24.6M, leads weekend box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Liam Neeson's CIA thriller "Taken" bumped off "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" at the weekend box office, raking in $24.6 million and helping fuel the first $1 billion January in Hollywood history.

North American box office revenues were up nearly 20 percent in January over the same period last year, reaching a record $1.03 billion for the month. Attendance was up 16 percent over last year, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media by Numbers.

"This is exactly how you want to start a year," Dergarabedian said Sunday. "I think people feel movies are a good value for their dollar. Going to a movie is a habit people aren't willing to break."

"Taken" follows Neeson as a former CIA operative trying to track down a group of kidnappers who want to sell his daughter into the sex slave trade.

"We are thrilled. It's an all-audience movie," said 20th Century Fox distribution executive Bert Livingston. "When people come out they are going to talk about it. I think it's going to play for a long time."

1. "Taken," $24.6 million.
2. "Paul Blart: Mall Cop," $14 million.
3. "The Uninvited," $10.5 million.
4. "Hotel for Dogs," $8.7 million.
5. "Grand Torino," $8.6 million.
6. "Slumdog Millionaire," $7.7 million.
7. "Underworld: Rise of the Lycans," $7.2 million.
8. "New in Town," $6.7 million.
9. "My Bloody Valentine 3-D," $4.3 million.
10. "Inkheart," $3.7 million.

"Paul Blart: Mall Cop," the Kevin James comedy about a clumsy security guard, had been No. 1 the previous two weeks. Although it dropped to second place, it earned $14 million to boost its three-week total to more than $83 million.

Also opening this weekend was "The Uninvited," a remake of the 2003 South Korean thriller that pits two sisters against their potentially evil stepmother. It earned $10.5 million for third place.

In fourth was "Hotel for Dogs" with $8.7 million, followed by "Gran Torino" with $8.6 million. "Gran Torino," directed by and starring Clint Eastwood as a bigot who becomes a reluctant neighborhood hero, has now earned more than $110 million, making it Eastwood's highest grossing film.

It surpassed "In the Line of Fire," which starred Eastwood and made $102 million, and "Unforgiven," directed and starring Eastwood, which earned $101 million. "Unforgiven" won Oscars in 1992 for best picture and best director.

"Slumdog Millionaire," which continues to collect honors this awards season, was sixth with $7.7 million, bringing its total to more than $67 million in 12 weeks, as it moves into wider release across the U.S.

Its director, Danny Boyle, won the top honor Saturday night from the Directors Guild of America.

The awards are "adding to the prestige of the film in the marketplace and making it more important for the public to see," said Richard Shamban, vice president of theatrical distribution for the film's distributor, Fox Searchlight.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

AP

In this image released by 20th Century Fox, Liam Neeson is shown in a scene from, "Taken."

Boyle's 'Slumdog Millionaire' wins DGA honor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Slumdog Millionaire" continued its rags-to-riches march through Hollywood's awards season as its filmmaker, Danny Boyle, won the top honor Saturday from the Directors Guild of America.

The win puts Boyle on the inside track for the same prize at the Academy Awards on Feb. 22, since the guild recipient almost always goes on to win the directing Oscar.

While "Slumdog Millionaire" started as an underdog that nearly went straight to DVD, it has emerged as the Oscar favorite. Audiences have embraced Boyle's tale of a poor boy rising to fame and fortune from the streets of Mumbai, and the film triumphed at the Golden Globes and Producers Guild of America Awards, while taking the prize for best ensemble cast from the Screen Actors Guild.

"Slumdog Millionaire" originally was to be released by Warner Independent, but its fate went into limbo after Warner Bros. closed down that arthouse banner. After a brief prospect of going right to DVD, the film found a theatrical home with Fox Searchlight, which has had success with such smaller films as "Little Miss Sunshine" and "Juno."

"I should start by curiously thanking Warner Bros. for actually having the grace to do the right thing, when I think it would have been a lot easier to do the wrong thing, and pass the film on to Fox Searchlight, who are an extraordinary bunch of people," Boyle said as he was introduced earlier in the night as one of the five nominees.

Backstage, Boyle joked about the fact that his award was presented by Joel and Ethan Coen, who won the prize a year ago for "No Country for Old Men." "To step into the shoes of people like the Coen brothers, I mean, it's phenomenal, because I have, as I admitted in the earlier speech, I've stolen from them all my career," he said. "I mean in a naked and appalling way."

Boyle

"The Office" won the top honor for television comedy, "The Wire" took the award for TV drama and "Recount" won for TV movie.

Paul Feig received the award for an installment of "The Office," whose competition included two episodes of "30 Rock," the series that has dominated at recent Hollywood honors such as the Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild Awards.

"We're in a real golden age of TV comedy, and I'm just happy to be part of it," Feig said backstage.

The drama series prize went to director Dan Attias for an episode from the final season of "The Wire," a far-reaching drama with a huge cast exploring police, criminals, courts, schools, politics, media and other facets of life in Baltimore.

"Austin Powers" and "Meet the Parents" director Jay Roach was the recipient for the election drama "Recount."

Ari Folman's "Waltz With Bashir" won the documentary award. The film, which is nominated in the foreign-language category at the Academy Awards, is director Folman's animated study of an Israeli soldier struggling to recall suppressed memories of his involvement in the war with Lebanon.

Chicago Sun-Times film critic Roger Ebert was honored with an honorary life membership in the guild.

Michael Apted, the guild's president, noted that Ebert no longer can speak because of complications from thyroid cancer, but he told Ebert, "We're happy that it didn't stop you from writing about our work."

The ceremony featured recorded testimonials to Ebert from directors including Steven Spielberg, Clint Eastwood, Martin Scorsese and Oliver Stone.

"The motion picture is the art form I love above all others," Ebert said in a statement recorded via a synthetic computer voice with a British accent. "It is the symphony, and you are the conductors."

Among other guild winners:

■ Reality programming: Tony Croll, "America's Next Top Model."

■ Children's programs: Amy Schatz, "The Poetry Show."

■ Daytime serials: Larry Carpenter, "One Life to Live."

Among Hollywood's many honors on the buildup to the Academy Awards, the Directors Guild prizes have one of the best track records for predicting eventual Oscar winners. Only six times in the guild awards' 60-year history has the winner failed to take home the directing Oscar.

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Taken

Friday		4:30	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:15	
Mon and Tues		4:30	7:15	

Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace
Action, Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Former government operative Bryan Mills begins the longest 96-hours of his life--and the hunt for the fearsome organization that has taken his daughter Kim. Mills had only recently given up his government career as what he calls a "preventer" to be near Kim, who lives with Bryan's ex-wife Lenore and her new husband. To make ends meet, Bryan joins some former colleagues for special security details (like guarding a pop diva), but most of his time and energy are spent re-connecting with Kim.

★ ★ ★

Inkheart

Friday		4:05	7:25	9:45
Saturday	1:20	4:05	7:25	9:45
Sunday	1:20	4:05	7:25	
Mon and Tues		4:05	7:25	

Brendan Fraser, Helen Mirren
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis

Mortimer "Mo" Folchart and his 12-year-old daughter, Meggie, share a passion for books. What they also share is an extraordinary gift for bringing characters from books to life when they read aloud. But there is a danger: when a character is brought to life from a book, a real person disappears into its pages. On one of their trips to a secondhand book shop, Mo hears voices he hasn't heard for years, and when he locates the book they're coming from, it sends a shiver up his spine.

Paul Blart, Mall Cop

Friday		4:20	7:05	10:00
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	10:00
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tues		4:20	7:05	

Kevin James, Jayma Mays
Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

A single, suburban dad tries to make ends meet as a security officer at a New Jersey mall. It's a job he takes very seriously, though no one else does. When Santa's helpers at the mall stage a coup, shutting down the megaplex and taking hostages (Paul's daughter and sweetheart among them), Jersey's most formidable mall cop will have to become a real cop to save the day.

Underworld 3: Rise of the Lycans

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:10	
Mon and Tues		4:10	7:10	

Michael Sheen, Bill Nighy
Thriller, Romance • Rated R

Hotel For Dogs

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:35
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:35
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon and Tues		4:00	7:00	

Emma Roberts, Don Cheadle
Comedy, Children • Rated PG

Bride Wars

Friday		4:15	7:30	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon and Tues		4:15	7:30	

Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG

Unborn

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon and Tues		4:25	7:20	

Gary Oldman, Odette Yustman
Thriller, Supernatural • Rated PG 13

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Hemingway's Cuba letters now at JFK Library

BOSTON (AP)—When Gaylord Johnson Jr. was struggling with a term paper at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., he figured he'd ask for help from someone who knew the material best: Ernest Hemingway.

"I've read a couple of the Nick Adams stories and have also read critical material on the same," Johnson wrote in a letter to Hemingway in 1956, referring to one of Hemingway's most famous characters. "I am, however, not quite satisfied with all I've read, and I wondered if you would write me and tell me just what you think of Nick Adams." Johnson's letter, along with more than 3,000 other documents from Hemingway's time in Cuba, was previously tucked away in the basement of Hemingway's estate at Finca Vigia, unseen by scholars and researchers.

Now, thanks to an agreement between U.S. Rep. James McGovern, D-Mass., and the Cuban government, copies of those writings are at the John F. Kennedy Library.

The archival replicas include corrected proofs of "The Old Man and the Sea," a movie script based on the novel, an alternate ending to "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and thousands of letters, with correspondence from authors Sinclair Lewis and John Dos Passos and actress Ingrid Bergman. The documents were previewed Thursday and will likely be available to researchers in late spring.

McGovern, museum officials and scholars hailed the agreement with Cuba as historic cooperation between the two countries.

"It's a turning point toward a more rational, mature relationship between our two countries," McGovern said. "I think Hemingway can be the bridge to help move both sides to a point where we can have a good, solid relationship."

AP

In this 1948 photo provided by the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum shows writer Ernest Hemingway sit with his fourth wife Mary in Cuba.

McGovern, an advocate of normalizing relations between the U.S. and Cuba, said Cubans consider Hemingway one of their own because he lived there for 21 years, longer than any other place he resided in his life.

The Worcester congressman also credited the Cubans working at Finca Vigia for scanning and digitizing all the materials and working to preserve the originals and the house in Cuba, which was also part of the agreement.

The JFK Library already has an extensive collection of Hemingway material—100,000 pages of writings and 10,000 photographs, paintings and personal objects such as Hemingway's passports, flasks and wallet—thanks to a connection between Hemingway's fourth wife, Mary Welsh Hemingway, and the Kennedys.

Hemingway's wife returned to Cuba in 1961 after Hemingway's death that July, hoping to retrieve his belongings from his house at Finca Vigia. Because Fidel Castro had risen to power, she asked a friend who knew the Kennedys if President Kennedy could help her get to Cuba and take Hemingway's possessions back to the United States, since the Cuban government planned to turn the estate into a Hemingway museum. The president took care of logistics within days.

When Mary Hemingway decided to donate the collection to a library, Jacqueline Kennedy told her through a letter exchange that Hemingway's writings would always have a special place in the JFK Library.

The collection has been available for viewing by appointment on the fifth floor since 1972, and the library boasts the most comprehensive body of Hemingway material in one place.

Still, Sandra Spanier, professor of English and general editor of the Hemingway Letters Project at Pennsylvania State University, said that Mary Hemingway couldn't physically carry everything out of Cuba because of the large volume of works. Spanier was part of the group that saw what was left behind at the Hemingway Museum at Finca de Vigia in 2002, along with Jenny Phillips, a Concord psychotherapist whose grandfather, Maxwell Perkins, was Hemingway's editor.

Phillips arranged the trip through McGovern when she heard there were letters in the basement from her grandfather but couldn't gain access to them. She returned with her husband, Frank Spanier, and Pulitzer Prize-winning Perkins biographer A. Scott Berg to assess the collection and look into steps to preserve it.

Spanier said she got goosebumps when she saw Hemingway letters to Mary before their marriage and an original typescript of the short story "In Another Country."

The microfilm copies at the JFK Library provide scholars a window into the period that occupied half of Hemingway's writing life, which before left a "black hole" in Hemingway studies because the material was off-limits to biographers, Spanier said.

Authors to Washington Post: Save Book World

NEW YORK (AP)—Historians Robert Dallek and Sean Wilentz and author-essayist Barbara Ehrenreich are among the more than 100 writers who have signed an open letter asking The Washington Post not to shut down its stand-alone Sunday Book World section.

"Few forums besides Book World introduce so many readers to so many important new works of literature and thought each week," the letter reads. "As part of one of our most venerated papers, it carries prestige and influence. It enriches our culture with its thoughtful criticism."

Other signees of the letter sent Thursday include fiction writers Roxana Robinson and Peter Straub, and historians David Greenberg, David Garrow and Douglas Brinkley.

Paris Picasso exhibit stays open 83 hours non-stop

PARIS (AP)—The staid Grand Palais exhibition hall opened for 83 consecutive hours at the end of a nearly four-month Picasso exhibition, drawing thousands who stood for hours in the dark and frigid temperatures before dawn Sunday.

More than 700,000 visitors have seen "Picasso and his Masters" since it opened Oct. 8—but during working hours. Attendance figures for the 9 a.m. Friday to 8 p.m. Monday marathon will not be available until the final day.

"I am not particularly impressed by Picasso, but ... to be in a place which is not usually open at night is something special," said Parisian Deborah Boucher.

She swigged whiskey from a hip flask and shared with visitors outside the 19th-century landmark. At least a dozen families with children were waiting before sunrise.

The exhibit displays Picasso paintings alongside those of masters who inspired him—from El Greco to Cezanne.

Financial adviser Manuel Eduardo Aranguren Aranguren said he flew from Venezuela seven hours earlier to compare Picasso's works with the masters who influenced him.

"The opportunity to have all the artists' works in one place and being able to compare them ... is a unique opportunity," he said.

NBC sells out Super Bowl ads for record $206M

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—NBC said on the eve of Sunday's Super Bowl that it has sold the last two of the 69 advertising spots for the game, pushing total ad revenue for the event to a record $206 million.

The network said its total of $261 million in ad revenue for all of Super Bowl day also is a record, calling it an especially impressive feat in the middle of the economy's steep downturn.

The Super Bowl is the premier advertising event with an U.S. audience of 100 million viewers, many of whom watch closely during game breaks for the debut of entertaining, big-budget commercials. The ads have sold for between $2.4 million and $3 million per 30-second slot this year.

"These advertising milestones show the power of the NFL brand and the strength of the Super Bowl as a TV property in this economic climate," said Jeff Zucker, president and CEO of NBC Universal, a unit of General Electric Co. "The Super Bowl has become one of our country's biggest holidays, a uniquely American day, and advertisers recognized the value in being a part of it."

Thirty-two advertisers in all will showcase their products during Super Bowl coverage.

NBC said the ads featured during the game also will be available for viewing almost immediately after they air at Web sites including NBC.com, Hulu.com and Superbowl.com.

Long hair is a burden both husband, wife should bear

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I disagree with your advice to "Short and Trendy in West Texas" (Nov. 17), whose husband thinks she went against him by cutting her long hair short. I, too, like my wife's hair long, and I see nothing wrong with urging her to keep it that way. Personally, I hate shaving and have suggested to my wife that I might like to grow a beard. She said, "No way," so I keep shaving.

If keeping her hair long is such a burden for "Short and Trendy," I would suggest a better alternative might be to explain to her husband how much time it takes to care for long hair (and three kids), and see if he would be willing to take on more chores so she will have time to care for longer tresses.

BEN IN HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

DEAR BEN: Thank you for lending your male perspective. However, most of the women who responded feel that a long mane is a pain. Read on:

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Judy, my wife and the love of my life for more than 37 years, still has beautiful waist-length blond hair. It's part of who she is, and I love who she is. Therefore, I brush her hair and massage her neck and shoulders every night before we go to bed.

Long hair is more work than short hair, and taking care of my wife is part of loving her, not a "fetish" of mine. Men who want their wives to keep their hair long might learn to—and offer to—help take care of it.

JUDY'S LOVING HUSBAND IN KULA, HAWAII

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I had long hair when my husband and I first were married. It was his desire that I keep it long, but as time went on it became a big hassle with the daily grind. Finally I told him that if he wanted my hair long, he would be the one taking care of it. So for one week my husband got up at 5 in the morning to wash it, dry it and style it. At the end of the week he told me, "Honey, you can do whatever you want with your hair."

If men who like long hair would do what my husband did, perhaps they would understand why we want shorter cuts.

LONG HAIR NO MORE IN COLORADO SPRINGS

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I had the same problem with my husband. My response to him was if he wanted long hair, then he should grow HIS out. He hasn't bothered me about it since.

J.B. IN WINNSBORO, S.C.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a different view of this issue. The wife cutting her hair may have triggered fear in her husband. He may regard the change to short hair as a reminder that he's aging.

I remember one friend whose husband "made" her dye her hair when she began to go gray because her gray hair made him feel old. Change in one partner may worry the other partner that there will be other changes in the relationship.

LINDA IN MATHEWS, VA.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have had short hair most of my life. It's easier and suits me much better than long hair. Many men I have met have asked me if I would ever consider growing it out. And here's my response to them: "You want Rapunzel? Then you'd better start acting like Prince Charming!"

SASSY IN SHORT CUTS

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The first five years of marriage, your husband wants you to have long hair. The second five years, your husband wants his daughter to have long hair. The next five years, he wishes HE had some hair.

CALL ME SHORTY IN AKRON, OHIO

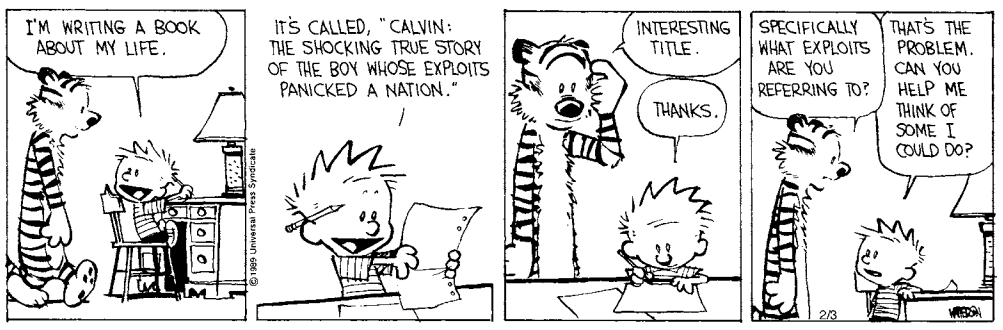
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'M WRITING A BOOK ABOUT MY LIFE.
IT'S CALLED, "CALVIN: THE SHOCKING TRUE STORY OF THE BOY WHOSE EXPLOITS PANICKED A NATION."
INTERESTING TITLE.
THANKS.
SPECIFICALLY WHAT EXPLOITS ARE YOU REFERRING TO?
THAT'S THE PROBLEM. CAN YOU HELP ME THINK OF SOME I COULD DO?
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

AND THEN IT OCCURRED TO ME WHY I WAS LIMPING ALL DAY...
I WAS WEARING ONLY ONE SHOE!
WHY ISN'T HE A TOURIST ATTRACTION?
www.garfield.com
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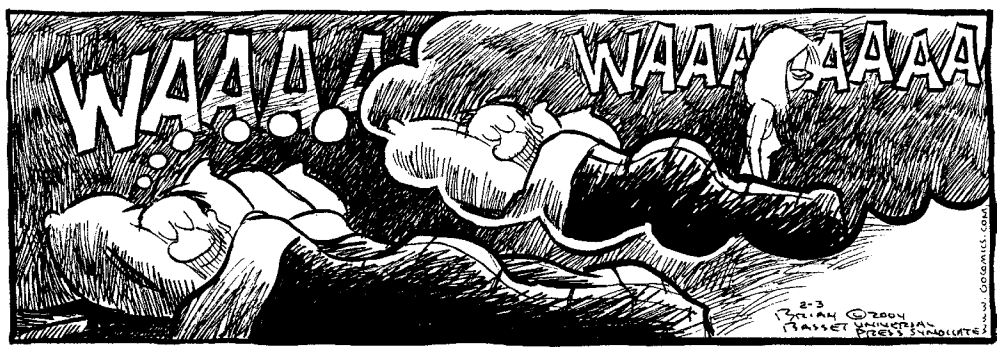
JIM DAVIS 2-3

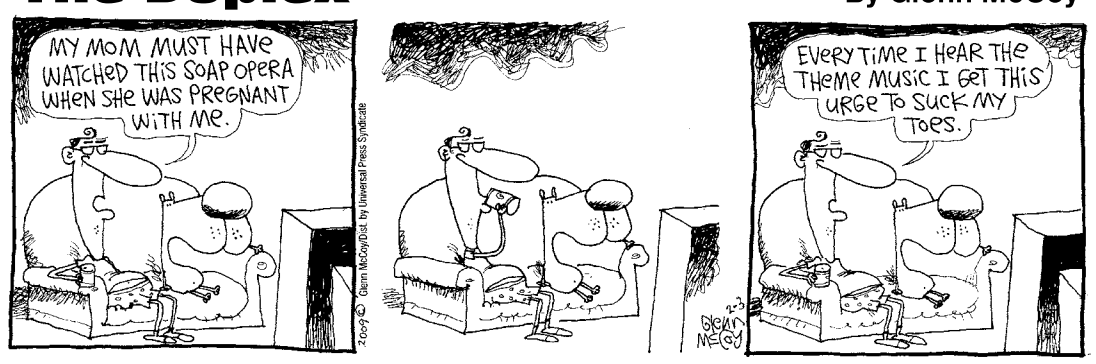
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


MY MOM MUST HAVE WATCHED THIS SOAP OPERA WHEN SHE WAS PREGNANT WITH ME.
EVERY TIME I HEAR THE THEME MUSIC I GET THIS URGE TO SUCK MY TOES.
2009 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
GLENN MCCOY 2-3

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

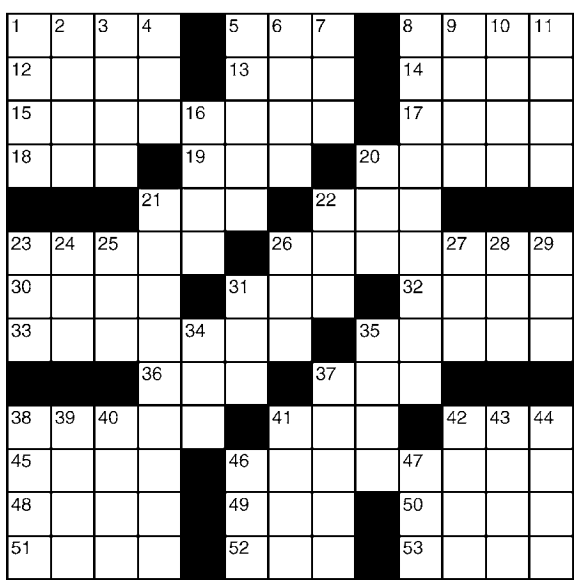
ACROSS
1 Therefore
5 Hot tub
8 Datum
12 Honeycomb compartment
13 Coop dweller
14 Wind instrument
15 Common wintertime ailment
17 — -podrida
18 Peculiar
19 Lummox
20 Glisten
21 — for tat
22 Schoolkids' transport
23 Muscle
26 No purebred
30 German car
31 Talk and talk and talk
32 Mine, partially
33 Filled the shelves
35 Run, as colors
36 Slippery fish
37 Evil
38 Parton-esque
41 Supporting
42 Mainlander's souvenir
45 Grooving on
46 Became established
48 Listending abbr.
49 So five minutes ago
50 Basilica area
51 — & Taylor
52 Distort
53 Earl Grey's family?

DOWN
1 Repeat performance?
2 14-Across insert
3 Satisfied
4 Antiquated
5 Young hog
6 Riches
7 Moreover
8 Iron pyrite
9 Competent
10 Pop flavor
11 Squad
16 Neologize
20 Holster contents
21 Trite
22 Short cut?
23 — -relief
24 Same old same-old
25 Bustle
26 Frenzied
27 Wish otherwise
28 Prior to
29 '60s psychedelic
31 Toothpaste, often
34 Crucial
35 Fir coat
37 Swag
38 Actress Jessica
39 "Do — others ..."
40 Celeb
41 Bridge-table quorum
42 Easy bounding gait
43 "Born Free" lioness
44 Mid-month date
46 AAA job
47 Chapeau

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	A	C			A	R	T		R	I	F	F
A	G	O	G		P	E	A		I	L	I	E
R	I	M	E		T	A	B		C	L	E	W
I	N	B	O	X		P	O	O	H			
			R	I	P		O	R	A	N	G	E
F	R	A	G	I	L	E		B	R	E	A	K
L	U	R	E		Y	A	K		D	A	Z	E
O	N	I	C	E		T	E	M	P	T	E	D
P	E	D	A	L	S		W	A	R			
			R	I	P	E		P	Y	G	M	Y
P	A	U	L		I	C	H		O	R	E	O
H	I	F	I		R	H	O		R	I	N	K
I	R	O	N		E	O	N			D	U	E

Yesterday's answer 2-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kathleen Kinmont, 44; Morgan Fairchild, 59; Blythe Danner, 66; Fran Tarkenton, 69

Happy Birthday: You'll be inclined to overlook the obvious this year, partly due to emotional concerns you may not want to face. You cannot move forward unless you get rid of the negative people and situations in your life. You are at a crossroad and choices and decisions must be made with great thought and honesty so you can move confidently into the future. Your numbers are 9, 14, 18, 22, 29, 34, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't count on anyone but yourself to do the work you want done. Be on your toes and ready to counteract anything that may incriminate you. Arguing will be a waste of time. Success will be sweet revenge. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): If you let anyone meddle in your affairs, it will take a long time to sort out the mess created. Don't second-guess your intentions. You must be on top of matters and in control in order to make the most of your day. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't hesitate when you have something important to say concerning an emotional matter. Waffling will confuse others and deter them from getting involved in your plans. If you are gung ho, you will attract followers. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You have a good handle on your situation. Now, if you can express your feelings, you can come out on top. When you back away and sulk, you lose ground. Listen to the options that others present. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't give in to emotional blackmail. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of your generosity and good nature. There are other opportunities, so don't let anyone make you feel you are in a do-or-die situation. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put your best foot forward and you'll have everyone eating out of your hand. You can persuade even the toughest opponent that you have something worth investing in or getting involved in. Make your move with confidence. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Go after your goals. Don't let laziness be your downfall. Getting involved in groups that can introduce you to people of influence will help you map out your course of action and bring about success. Romantic opportunities are present. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Think for yourself. You have to read between the lines if you want to know where you stand. Changes to your environment will leave you wondering where you will end up. Don't leave yourself open for criticism. Do what needs to be done. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You are likely to get involved in an emotional situation that will make you squirm if you haven't been honest. If you fall short, someone will be happy to point it out. Stay where you can get the most done in the least amount of time. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You have everything going for you but, if you let someone you are emotionally involved with cloud your vision, you will miss out on a prosperous opportunity. Changes to your home or your personal situation will ease stress. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Too much, too fast will lead to emotional upset and poor choices. Someone will try to talk his or her way into your life but past records should help you make your final decision. It's time for you to move on to new people, places and pastimes. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Mingle with people who are doers. A partnership looks promising but, before you decide to get involved financially, make sure that the deal is fair to both parties. Get what you want in writing. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, innovative and imaginative. You will stand alone, if you must, to be true to your beliefs. You are kind and compassionate.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6		9		1	8	
						9		4
8				4			3	2
					5			
2		5				3		8
			4					
7	9			8				5
5		1						
	4	8		7		6		

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	5	1	2	6	7	4	3	9
4	6	7	1	3	9	8	2	5
9	2	3	8	5	4	6	7	1
7	4	5	3	8	1	2	9	6
1	3	2	9	4	6	7	5	8
6	8	9	5	7	2	1	4	3
5	1	8	7	2	3	9	6	4
2	9	6	4	1	5	3	8	7
3	7	4	6	9	8	5	1	2

Difficulty Level ★ 2/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TALKING SHOP **Solution: 8 letters**

S	B	M	G	C	B	F	L	E	G	D	U	J	(C) L
S	U	R	R	L	O	E	T	A	T	S	E	(A)	I F
E	R	O	O	R	N	N	S	K	P	S	(L)	S	E Y
N	E	G	U	A	R	E	V	E	A	(L)	T	E	T R
I	A	M	P	T	D	T	E	E	M	E	D	I	A O
S	U	R	A	I	P	C	C	L	N	A	P	S	B T
U	C	E	S	I	H	M	A	A	T	T	C	S	E S
B	R	H	S	S	L	N	E	S	R	I	I	N	D I
A	A	T	E	S	G	E	O	T	T	E	R	O	E L
R	T	A	R	U	E	P	C	I	N	E	T	U	N A
G	I	G	A	C	I	R	L	T	T	O	G	N	W N
A	C	G	H	S	G	O	D	N	U	R	C	R	I R
I	E	A	S	I	P	O	I	D	A	R	I	E	S U
N	T	O	A	D	V	I	C	E	A	T	E	L	L O
S	G	N	E	W	S	P	A	P	E	R	N	I	O J

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Yesterday's Answer: Massifs

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Find today's solution in this section

Name: Jeffrey P. Cabrera
Address: P.O. Box 501116
Saipan, MP 96050
Phone: (670) 237-2700

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Jeffrey P. Cabrera Petitioner,	)	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0443
vs.	)	
Xiaqin Zhou Cabrera Respondent,	)	**VERIFIED EX-PARTE MOTION FOR AN ORDER TO APPEAR AND PLEAD AND FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION**

MOTION

COMES NOW, the Petitioner, Jeffrey P. Cabrera, and respectfully moves this court, pursuant to 7 CMC Section 1301 and 1302 for an Order to Appear and Plead and to serve the Petition, Summons and the Order of this Court upon the Respondent, by publication in a news paper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands because Respondent cannot be found or served.

Dated this 29th day of January, 2009.

/s/ PETITIONER

Name: Janet P. Catalan
Address: PMB 1483 Box 10005
Saipan, MP 96050
Phone: (670) 235-8377

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Janet P. Catalan Petitioner,	)	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0323
vs.	)	
Danny Catalan Respondent,	)	**VERIFIED EX-PARTE MOTION FOR AN ORDER TO APPEAR AND PLEAD AND FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION**

MOTION

COMES NOW, the Petitioner, Janet P. Catalan, and respectfully moves this court, pursuant to 7 CMC Section 1301 and 1302 for an Order to Appear and Plead and to serve the Petition, Summons and the Order of this Court upon the Respondent, by publication in a news paper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands because Respondent cannot be found or served.

Dated this 29th day of January, 2009.

/s/ PETITIONER

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Guard files sex harassment suit vs principal. PAGE 3
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAGE 5
There is still hope for nonimmigrant
joins Mi
235- NEWS

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• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

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Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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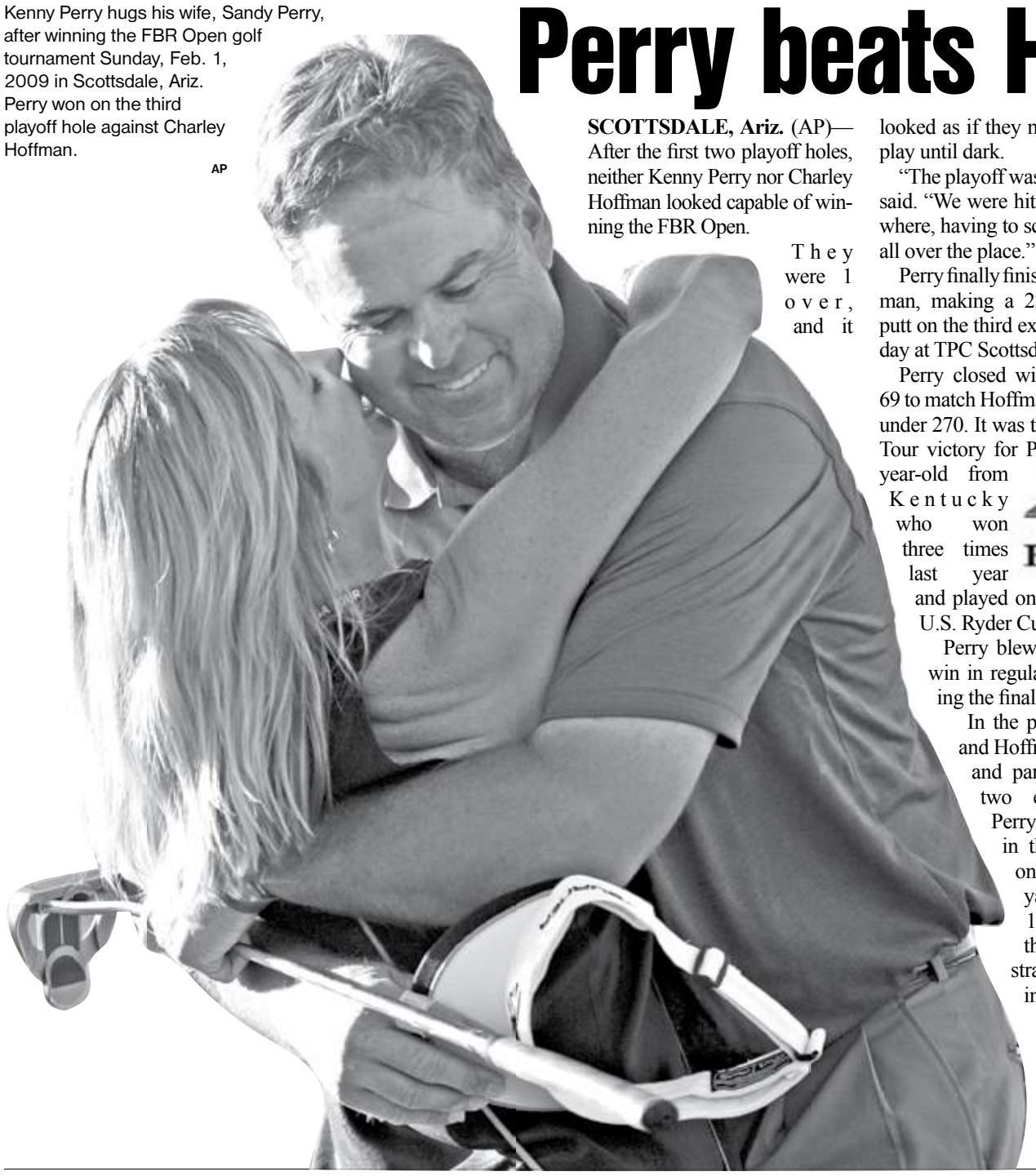
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Perry beats Hoffman in playoff



Kenny Perry hugs his wife, Sandy Perry, after winning the FBR Open golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009 in Scottsdale, Ariz. Perry won on the third playoff hole against Charley Hoffman.

AP

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—After the first two playoff holes, neither Kenny Perry nor Charley Hoffman looked capable of winning the FBR Open.

They were 1 over, and it looked as if they might have to play until dark.

"The playoff was ugly," Perry said. "We were hitting it everywhere, having to scramble from all over the place."

Perry finally finished off Hoffman, making a 22-foot birdie putt on the third extra hole Sunday at TPC Scottsdale.

Perry closed with a 2-under 69 to match Hoffman (67) at 14-under 270. It was the 13th PGA Tour victory for Perry, the 48-year-old from Kentucky who won three times last year and played on the winning U.S. Ryder Cup team.

Perry blew a chance to win in regulation, bogeying the final hole.

In the playoff, Perry and Hoffman bogeyed and parred the first two extra holes. Perry then rolled in the long putt on the 332-yard, par-4 17th to end the second straight playoff in the event.

"Kenny gave me a few opportunities, I gave him a few opportunities, and he happened to close the door," said Hoffman, who has one PGA Tour victory, the 2007 Bob Hope Chrysler Classic.

Kevin Na (68) finished third at 13 under. Na rallied from six strokes back, but barely missed an 8-foot putt on the 18th hole that would have put him in the playoff.

Na was briefly overcome with emotion after he missed the putt. After signing his scorecard, he said he was proud of himself for bouncing back from two bogeys in the first three holes.

"I couldn't have gotten off to any worse start," Na said. "I was all over the lot. I've got a great short game, and I just made every putt I could except the last one."

Na has played well at the FBR Open, tying for second in 2005 and fourth last year.

"I'm going to win here someday," Na said. "Next year. I'm going to win here multiple times when my career is over, that's for sure."

This was Perry's 22nd straight FBR Open—and his first victory.

At 48, Perry became the oldest player to win the event. Julius Boros was 46 when he won in 1967.

"It feels kind of funny playing with all these young kids nowadays," Perry said. "But to me, this was a place I felt like I could always win."

Perry, who had played steadily on a sunny, 72-degree afternoon, seemed likely to win in regulation.

Leading by a stroke, all Perry needed was a par on the 18th, a hole he birdied twice and parred once this week. But he drove into a fairway bunker and had to settle for a bogey 5.

Perry didn't panic. He said it reminded him of his victory in last year's John Deere Classic, when he bogeyed the final hole to lose the lead, then won a one-hole playoff over Jay Williamson and Brad Adamonis.

"Same kind of deal," Perry said. "At least I had that to kind of draw upon."

Perry's bogey set up the playoff, and it wasn't pretty.

The playoff opened at the 438-yard, par-4 18th, and Hoffman and Perry drove into bunkers and settled for bogeys.

The playoff moved to the 403-yard, par-4 10th, which Hoffman birdied in each of the first three rounds.

Hoffman bombed his tee shot off a cart path and over the green, then chipped to 13 feet. Perry drove into the left rough, then hit an iron 20 feet from the cup.

Both players two-putted, and the playoff dragged on to the 17th.

That was where, in regulation, Perry had taken a short-lived one-shot lead with a birdie about an hour earlier.

Michael Phelps acknowledges photo using pot pipe

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Olympic great Michael Phelps acknowledged "regrettable" behavior and "bad judgment" after a photo in a British newspaper Sunday showed him inhaling from a marijuana pipe.

In a statement to The Associated Press, the swimmer who won a record eight gold medals at the Beijing Games did not dispute the authenticity of the exclusive picture published Sunday by the tabloid News of the World.

"I engaged in behavior which was regrettable and demonstrated bad judgment," Phelps said in the statement released by one of his agents. "I'm 23 years old and despite the successes I've had in the pool, I acted in a youthful and inappropriate way, not in a manner people have come to expect from me. For this, I am sorry. I promise my fans and the public it will not happen again."

News of the World said the picture was taken during a November house party while Phelps was visiting the University of South Carolina. During that trip, he attended one of the school's football games and received a big ovation when introduced to the crowd.

While the newspaper did not specifically allege that Phelps was smoking pot, it did say the water pipe is generally used for that purpose and anonymously quoted a partygoer who said the Olympic champion was "out of control from the moment he got there."

The party occurred nearly three months after the Olympics while Phelps was taking a long break from training, and his actions should have no impact on the eight golds he won at Beijing. He has never tested positive for banned substances. The case is unlikely to fall under any doping rules.

Phelps' main sanctions most likely will be financial—perhaps doled out by embarrassed sponsors who might be reconsidering their dealings with the swimmer.

Phelps was in Tampa, Fla., during Super Bowl week to make promotional appearances on behalf of a sponsor. But he left the city before Sunday's game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals, abandoning his original plan to be at Raymond James Stadium.

The U.S. Olympic Committee said it was "disappointed in the behavior recently exhibited by Michael Phelps," who was selected the group's sportsman of the year. He also was honored as AP male athlete of the year, and his feat in Beijing—breaking Mark Spitz's 36-year-old record for most gold medals in an Olympics—was chosen as the top story of 2008.

"Michael is a role model, and he is well aware of the responsibilities and accountability that come with setting a positive example for others, particularly young people," the USOC said in a statement. "In this instance, regrettably, he failed to fulfill those responsibilities."

USA Swimming said its Olympic champions are "looked up to by people of all ages, especially young athletes who have their own aspirations and dreams."

"That said," the governing body added, "we realize that none among us is perfect. We hope that Michael can learn from this incident and move forward in a positive way."

Phelps was part of a group of elite athletes who agreed to take part in a pilot testing program designed to increase the accuracy of doping tests. His spot in the program could be at risk, said Travis Tygart, head of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.

"For one of the Olympics' biggest heroes it's disappointing, and we'll evaluate whether he remains in that program," Tygart said. "But some good education comes from this because he's going to suffer some penalties."

Marijuana is viewed differently from performance-enhancing drugs, according to David Howman, executive director of the World Anti-Doping Agency. An athlete is subject to WADA sanctions only for a positive test that occurs during competition periods.

"We don't have any jurisdiction," Howman said. "It's not banned out of competition. It's only if you test positive in competition."

Phelps returned to the pool a couple of weeks ago to begin preparations for this summer's world championships in Rome. He plans to take part in his first post-Olympics meet in early March, a Grand Prix event in Austin, Texas.

This isn't the first embarrassing episode for Phelps after an Olympic triumph. In 2004, a few months removed from winning six gold and two bronze medals in Athens, the swimmer was arrested on a drunken driving charge at age 19. He pleaded guilty and apologized for the mistake.

In his book "No Limits: The Will to Succeed," Phelps recounted how his first phone call was to his agent, and not his mother or coach Bob Bowman, because he knew they would yell at him.

Later, he called Bowman, who was supportive but told him, "Michael, just because you want to blow off some steam doesn't mean you can be an idiot."

Debbie Phelps, his mother, cried at the news.

"That hurt worse, maybe, than anything," Phelps wrote. "I had never seen my mother that upset."

Bowman did not respond to phone and e-mail messages. Instead, he issued a terse statement through Phelps' agent.

"He regrets his behavior, and I'm sure he'll learn from this experience," the coach said. "I'm glad to have him back in training."

Olympic teammate Dara Torres said Phelps has become such a prominent figure that everything he does is news.

However, she said: "This in no way, shape or form diminishes anything he's done."

"It's sort of a double-edged sword," Torres told the AP on Sunday. "When you're recognizable, you're looked up to as a role model. He is recognizable and everything you do gets looked at and picked apart. I guess that's the price of winning 14 Olympic medals."

Jason Lezak, whose remarkable anchor leg of the 400-meter freestyle relay helped Phelps stay on course to break Spitz's record, said he was "saddened" to hear of the report.

"While I don't condone his conduct, I am a teammate and fan," Lezak said in a text message to the AP. "Unlike many fair-weather people, I am sticking by him. If my wife and I can help him in any way, we will. I believe he will grow from this and be better person, role model and teammate."

Last year, News of the World posted video on its Web site showing Max Mosley, the president of motor racing's governing body, engaging in sex acts with five prostitutes. Mosley admitted to being a part of the scenario but sued for breach of privacy and was awarded $120,000. Another news break involved Prince Harry in 2002, smoking marijuana and drinking before the legal age of 18.

During the 1998 Nagano Olympics, Canadian snowboarder Ross Rebagliati was stripped of his gold medal in the giant slalom after testing positive for marijuana. The victory was reinstated because the sport's governing body did not have a rule banning the substance. Later that year, Olympic swimmer Gary Hall Jr. drew a three-month suspension after testing positive for pot.

"It's one of those substances that every year there's debate over it," said Howman, the WADA official.

The USOC's code of conduct only covers the period from when an athlete makes the Olympic team until the end of the games. But Howman suggested that U.S. swimming officials or the sport's world organization, FINA, could punish Phelps if there is "sufficient evidence to indicate possession, supply or distribution."

FINA officials said they would not comment on the matter until Monday, as did the International Olympic Committee.

"We have to be strong on these things," Howman said. "We certainly are relying on those who are responsible to look into this."

The USOC noted that Phelps acknowledged his mistake and apologized.

"We are confident that, going forward, Michael will consistently set the type of example we all expect from a great Olympic champion," the group said.

LeBron scores 33 in Cavs' win over Pistons

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—LeBron James was on the sideline when the Cleveland Cavaliers surged past the Detroit Pistons.

Then, he finished them off.

James scored 33 points and got some timely help from Mo Williams and Daniel Gibson in Cleveland's 90-80 win over the Detroit Pistons on Sunday.

With James resting, Williams and Gibson outscored Detroit by themselves in a 15-2 run to take a 73-68 lead early in the fourth quarter.

James sealed the victory on a driving layup, an assist, 3-pointer and free throw to put the Cavs ahead by nine with 2 1/2 minutes left.

The Central Division-leading Cavs have won six of their last seven and are 12 games ahead of Detroit.

Allen Iverson scored 22 points for the Pistons, who have lost nine of 12 and are 21-21 with him.

Detroit's Rasheed Wallace scored just nine points and Rodney Stuckey added only six.

Reserve Richard Hamilton scored 16 points, Tayshaun Prince had 11 and Amir Johnson scored 10 points for the first time in a month.

Williams, who has become James' best sidekick on the perimeter, scored 22 points and Gibson scored all seven of his points in the fourth.

Cleveland's Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 13 points on 5-of-16 shooting, playing in his second game after being sidelined for 13 games with an ankle injury.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James goes to the basket against the Detroit Pistons in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, in Auburn Hills, Mich.

The Cavs have been unbeatable at home with a 22-0 record and have been solid on the road, winning 15 of 24 games.

Cleveland led 18-16 after a sluggish first quarter, then trailed by three at halftime.

Iverson took control in the third quarter, helping the Pistons outscore Cleveland by seven, but they fell apart in the fourth—as they often have this season—while getting outscored 25-10.

Magic 113, Raptors 90

At Toronto, Dwight Howard had 29 points and 14 rebounds, and Jameer Nelson added 18 points and 10 assists as Orlando never trailed in its win over Toronto.

Mickael Pietrus scored 22 points and Rashard Lewis had 15 for the Magic, who led by as many as 24 and have won three straight following back-to-back losses to Boston and Miami.

Orlando broke it open with a 20-6 run to start the second half, keyed by two 3-pointers each by Lewis and rookie Courtney Lee. Toronto trailed 87-65 after three quarters.

Jose Calderon scored 16 points for Toronto, reserve Joey Graham had 14 and Andrea Bargnani had 12.

Celtics 109, Timberwolves 101

At Boston, Paul Pierce had 36 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and Ray Allen scored 22 as Boston beat Minnesota for its 11th straight game.

Al Jefferson, the centerpiece of the trade that brought Kevin Garnett to Boston and set the stage for the franchise's 17th NBA title, scored 34 points for the Timberwolves. Jefferson also had 11 rebounds for his 26th double-double of the season.

Boston led by as many as 21 in the third quarter, 71-50, before Minnesota scored 15 of the next 17 points. The Timberwolves got within five in the fourth quarter, 94-89, with 5:20 left, but Allen hit a jumper and Pierce made a pair of free throws to make it a nine-point game.

Garnett missed the game with a high fever.

Kings 122, Thunder 118, OT

At Sacramento, California, Kevin Martin scored 37 points as the Kings ended an eight-game losing streak with a win over Oklahoma City.

Bobby Jackson had six of his 11 points in overtime. The veteran guard put Sacramento ahead for good with a floater in the lane and followed with a jumper to make it 120-116 with 1:42 left.

Russell Westbrook had a career-high 34 points and added eight assists for the Thunder. Kevin Durant scored 33, Jeff Green had 28 points and 13 rebounds, and Nick Collison added 10 points and 14 boards.

Francisco Garcia had 17 points, Jason Thompson scored 15 and Spencer Hawes finished with 13 for the Kings. Both Garcia and Thompson fouled out in the fourth quarter.

McNamee's syringes reportedly at UCLA lab for test

WASHINGTON (AP)—The country's leading doping lab is testing syringes and vials Roger Clemens' former personal trainer gave federal investigators to determine whether the items contain traces of performance-enhancing drugs, a person close to the case told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is still ongoing into whether Clemens lied under oath to Congress last year when he denied using steroids or human growth hormone.

Prosecutors have asked a federal grand jury in Washington to decide whether to indict the seven-time Cy Young Award winner. The trainer, Brian McNamee, has told federal agents, baseball investigator George Mitchell and a House of Representatives committee that he injected Clemens more than a dozen times with steroids and HGH from 1998-2001.

Now, according to the person close to the case, the world-renowned UCLA Olympic doping lab—where the "clear" and the "cream" of BALCO infamy first were uncovered—has in hand the physical evidence McNamee turned over to federal prosecutors in early 2008 that his side says will link Clemens to drug use.

UCLA declined the AP's request to speak to the head of the lab.

"Regardless of who the client is, the UCLA Olympic Analytical Lab can't reveal anything due to test subject confidentiality," senior media relations officer Elaine Schmidt wrote in an e-mail.

For the items to play a role in the case—to help settle the he-said, he-said between Clemens and McNamee—investigators must know what, exactly, is on them.

McNamee's lawyers said last year the material included vials of testosterone and unused needles Clemens gave to McNamee. They also said they turned over needles used to inject Clemens—needles that were contained in a beer can McNamee says was removed from the trash at the pitcher's New York apartment in 2001—and gauze used to wipe blood off Clemens after a shot.

At the time, Clemens' camp called it "manufactured" evidence, while McNamee's side said the items were thrown in a box by McNamee and kept for years in case he needed to "protect himself" somewhere down the line.

"The defendants will undoubtedly claim it was tampered with. But the jury will decide whether that's true or not," one of McNamee's lawyers, Richard Emery, said in a telephone interview Friday. "I don't think there's any doubt that it'll be admitted in the case, assuming that it reveals that Clemens' DNA is mixed with steroids or HGH."

McNamee and his lawyers have given DNA samples to federal investigators. It's not clear whether federal authorities have a DNA sample from Clemens.

Asked to comment on the UCLA lab's role, Clemens' lawyer, Rusty Hardin, said through a spokesman: "We're happy that they're using such great resources, but it doesn't matter. Because at the end of the day, this is just a bunch of junk that was put together in a dark, dusty basement years ago by McNamee."

Sources: Varitek, Red Sox reach agreement

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Red Sox wrapped up their offseason bargain hunting Friday by reaching a preliminary agreement with catcher and captain Jason Varitek that pays him half as much in 2009 as he made last season. Varitek heads into his 13th major league season, all with the Red Sox, with a guaranteed $5 million for 2009 and a player option of $3 million or a team option of $5 million for 2010, two people familiar with the talks said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the agreement was not yet final.

That's quite a drop from the four-year, $40 million deal that ended after last season and less than he would have made had he accepted the team's offer of arbitration in early December.

But it was in keeping with the Red Sox strategy of conservative contracts while the New York Yankees went on a spending spree that amounted to $423.5 million in long-term deals for three free agents: first baseman Mark Teixiera ($22.5 million per year) and pitchers CC Sabathia ($23 million per year) and A.J. Burnett ($16.5 million per year).

The Red Sox handed out cheaper, one-year deals to pitchers John Smoltz ($5.5 million) and Brad Penny ($5 million) and outfielder Rocco Baldelli ($500,000). They also signed catcher Josh Bard, who made $2.2 million with San Diego last season, and reliever Takashi Saito, who was paid $2 million by the Los Angeles Dodgers last season.

The Red Sox traded outfielder Coco Crisp to Kansas City for reliever Ramon Ramirez. Crisp is due to make $5.75 million next season in a deal that includes an $8 million club option for 2010 with a $500,000 buyout. The Royals paid Ramirez $387,000 last season.

Also gone from Boston's payroll are Manny Ramirez, who was traded to the Dodgers last July, and Curt Schilling, who missed all of last season with a shoulder injury that required surgery.

Varitek came relatively cheap, in part because there was no great demand for his services after the worst offensive season of his career. If he plays under the player option, he could earn an additional $2 million in 2010 based on games started: $400,000 each for 80, 90, 100, 110 and 120 games.

He must take a physical before the agreement is completed.

Widely praised throughout his career by Boston's pitchers for his skill in handling them, opposing hurlers usually fared well when Varitek came to the plate last year. The switch-hitter, who turns 37 on April 11, hit. 220 with 13 homers and 43 RBIs in 131 games. For his career, he is batting .263 with 161 homers and 654 RBIs in 1,330 games.

Varitek also struggled trying to throw out base-stealers. They had an 81.2 percent success rate against him last season, worse than 19 other major league catchers.

With pitchers and catchers due to report to spring training Feb. 12, the Red Sox set a deadline of Friday for Varitek to accept or reject their offer. Their only catcher with considerable major league experience was Bard, and there was a chance they'd have to keep George Kottaras or Dusty Brown, who split time at Triple-A Pawtucket last year, as their No. 2 catcher.

Varitek, an All-Star in 2003 and 2005, had declined the Red Sox offer to go to arbitration, which would have resulted in a non-guaranteed one-year contract if no agreement was reached before a hearing. The team decreased his desirability to other clubs because the offer of arbitration requires a club to give up a first-round draft choice if it signed Varitek.

Varitek is the Red Sox career leader in games at catcher with 1,273. Carlton Fisk, who also played with the Chicago White Sox, is second with 990 games with Boston. Varitek was obtained on July 31, 1997, in one of the most lopsided trades in Red Sox history—they also picked up pitcher Derek Lowe from the Seattle Mariners for reliever Heathcliff Slocumb.

The Red Sox had set deadlines with other clients of Scott Boras, including pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka before the 2007 season and Teixeira before the first baseman signed with the Yankees last month.

STEELERS

From Page 28

lifting the Steelers to a record-setting sixth Super Bowl win, 27-23 over the Arizona Cardinals.

"Scramble right, scramble left, find someone open," Roethlisberger said.

It was one of the most thrilling finishes to the NFL title game, certainly equaling last year's upset by the New York Giants that ended with Plaxico Burress' TD catch—with 35 seconds left, too.

But this one was even wilder.

The Steelers (15-4), winning their second Super Bowl in four seasons, led 20-7 in the fourth quarter, only to see Kurt Warner and the Cardinals stage a remarkable rally to go in front 23-20 with 2:37 remaining.

Warner hit All-Pro receiver Larry Fitzgerald in stride for a 64-yard touchdown with 2:37 left. Already owning a slew of postseason receiving marks this year, Fitzgerald sped down the middle of the field, watching himself outrun the Steelers on the huge video screen.

Fitzgerald could only watch from the sideline as Roethlisberger engineered a 78-yard drive to win it in what resembled Heinz Field South. With waves of twirling Terrible Towels turning Raymond James Stadium into a black-and-gold tableau—Steelers fans supporting their beloved team, the economy be damned—Pittsburgh's offense rescued the title.

Holmes was selected the game's MVP.

"Great players step up in big-time games to make plays," Holmes said. "I kind of lost a little composure, you know, but I knew our defense would give us a chance to make it back."

The stunning swings overshadowed Pittsburgh linebacker James Harrison's record 100-yard interception return for a touchdown to end the first half. That looked like the signature play until the final quarter, when both teams shook off apparent knockout punches to throw haymakers of their own.

Big Ben and Holmes struck the last blow, and when Warner fumbled in the final seconds, the Cardinals' dream of winning their first NFL crown since 1947 were gone.

"I said it's now or never, I told the guys all the film study you put in doesn't matter unless you do it now," Roethlisberger said. "I'm really proud of the way they responded."

The Cardinals (12-8), playing in their first Super Bowl and first championship game of any kind since 1948, lost their composure after Harrison's heroics. They had three penalties to keep Pittsburgh's 79-yard drive going, a 16-play march that ended with Jeff Reed's 21-yard field goal for a 20-7 lead.

And they couldn't get Fitzgerald free until very late. But boy did he get free.

The All-Pro who already had set a postseason record for yards receiving and had five touchdowns in the playoffs was a nonentity until an 87-yard fourth-quarter drive he capped with a leaping 1-yard catch over Ike Taylor. He made four receptions on that series on which Warner hit all eight passes for all the yards.

And then he struck swiftly for the 64-yarder that put Arizona within minutes of a remarkable victory.

A victory that didn't happen because the Steelers are as resilient as they come.

"I'm disappointed for our team," said Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt, the offensive coordinator in Pittsburgh when the Steelers won the 2005 title. "This is a group of men that I'm very proud of. They played very hard in circumstances where nobody believed in them.

"We learned a lot about our team, it's just unfortunate it had to come out that way."

Pittsburgh looked like the offensive juggernaut to open the game, smoothly driving 71 yards in eight plays. But the 72nd yard that would have given the Steelers a touchdown never came.

It seemingly had when Roethlisberger's short run was ruled a TD. Whisenhunt challenged, and the score was overturned, leaving Tomlin his first difficult decision.

He took the points, Reed's 18-yard field goal, the shortest in a Super Bowl since 1976.

After forcing a punt, the Steelers kept the ball the remainder of the first quarter - 11:28 in all, outgaining Arizona 140-13, getting seven first downs to one for the Cardinals. As Warner and the usually potent Cardinals' offense watched, frustrated, from the sideline, Pittsburgh plowed it in on Gary Russell's 1-yard run to make it 10-0.

When Arizona finally got the ball back, it suddenly put the Steelers off-balance with short passes—and one huge play.

Warner had enough time to shine the NFL Man of the Year trophy he received just before kickoff, then hit Anquan Boldin streaking from left to right. He was upended at the Pittsburgh 1, and Warner's lob to Ben Patrick got Arizona on the board. It was the tight end's first touchdown this season.

Arizona's defense then emulated the Steel Curtain with a big play. Bryan Robinson tipped Roethlisberger's pass high into the air and Karlos Dansby corralled it at the Pittsburgh 34. The Cardinals got to the 1, then, perhaps jealous, the Steelers' D asserted itself—magnificently.

Harrison, the defensive player of the year, stepped in front of Boldin at the goal line, picked off Warner's throw and began a journey down the right sideline to the longest play in Super Bowl history.

Harrison ran past or through most of the Cardinals, nearly stepped out of bounds at one point, and was dragged down by Fitzgerald as he fell to the goal line. The play was reviewed as several Cardinals knelt on one knee, exhausted from the chase and disheartened by the result.

"I didn't see him around my offensive line," Warner said. "He made a great play and a great run to get them a touchdown."

The previous longest play was Desmond Howard's 99-yard kickoff return for Green Bay in 1997.

HOLMES

From Page 28

toes barely scraping the grass before he tumbled out of bounds.

The official threw up both arms—touchdown!—and Holmes sat out of bounds for several seconds, looking down at a ball he didn't want to give up. His teammates piled on top of him, celebrating a game that will go down as one of greatest in Super Bowl history.

Amazingly, Holmes' catch came at exactly the same point—35 seconds remaining—as Plaxico Burress' 13-yard touchdown catch in last year's Super Bowl, giving the New York Giants their upset of the unbeaten New England Patriots.

That finish was a classic. This one was even better.

Holmes was so good—nine catches for 131 yards, four of them on the winning 78-yard drive—that he actually managed to outshine teammate James Harrison, who seemed to be a shoe-in for the MVP award through three quarters.

"Santonio is a guy who just loves to deliver," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said.

Harrison, the NFL's defensive player of the year, returned an interception 100 yards for a touchdown on the final play of the first half. The longest play in Super Bowl history gave the Steelers a 17-7 lead heading to the locker room, and they stretched it to 20-7 after three periods.

But Kurt Warner and the Cardinals rallied, going ahead 23-20 with 2 1/2 minutes remaining on Larry Fitzgerald's 64-yard touchdown catch.

Then it was Holmes' turn to shine. Earlier in the week, he used the Super Bowl stage to acknowledge selling drugs in Belle Glade, Fla., hoping his story would persuade other youngsters growing up in tough surroundings to turn their life around, just as he did.

Now, he's given them another compelling reason to follow his path.

Before the final drive, Holmes told Roethlisberger to look his way. They hooked up four times, including a 40-yard pass that gave the Cardinals first down at the Arizona 6.

On the first throw into the end zone, Holmes couldn't hang on. He slapped the ground after the ball slipped through his hands, then headed back to huddle.

Roethlisberger didn't lose confidence in his third-year receiver. He looked that way again. Holmes came through.

"I said to him that I wanted to be the guy to make the plays for this team," Holmes said. "Great players step up in big-time games to make plays."

They don't get any bigger than this.

NADAL

From Page 28

He was sobbing. He couldn't speak.

"In the first moment you're disappointed, you're shocked, you're sad, then all of a sudden it overwhelms you," Federer finally said, referring to his 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-2 loss to Nadal in a momentum-swinging, 4-hour, 22-minute title match Sunday night.

"The problem is you can't go in the locker room and just take it easy and take a cold shower. You're stuck out there. It's the worst feeling. ... It's rough."

Nadal, the first Spanish man to win the Australian Open, beat Federer in Grand Slam finals on clay and grass last year. He added the missing link Sunday with his first major title on hard courts.

The 22-year-old Spaniard is 5-2 against Federer in championship matches at the majors—3-0 in the last three—and 13-6 in career meetings. The most riveting was Nadal's five-set, 4-hour, 48-minute win over Federer at Wimbledon last year, ending the Swiss star's five-year reign on grass.

Now, 40 years after Rod Laver last won the Grand Slam—all four majors in one season—Nadal is the only man who can emulate him in 2009.

Federer had been the most likely of the recent contenders, missing by one in 2006 and 2007—losing to Nadal at Roland Garros both years. Clay remains his obstacle. And the French Open was the only major missing in Sampras' career.

"God, it's killing me," Federer said, crying, as he tried at first to accept the runner-up plate. He returned to congratulate Nadal within minutes, saying: "You deserved it. You played a fantastic final."

After collecting the trophy from Laver, on the court named for the Australian great, Nadal put his arm around Federer.

"To receive this trophy from Rod Laver is a dream for me," he said. "Rod, thanks very much. It was an amazing two weeks for me."

Nadal seemed pained by Federer's anguish.

"Roger, sorry for today. I really know how you feel right now," Nadal said. "Remember, you're a great champion, you're one of the best in history. You're going to improve on the 14 of Sampras."

Nadal was in the final of a major on hard courts for the first time, having been knocked out in the semifinals of the Australian and U.S. Opens last year.

Even this time, he had to struggle to make the last weekend. He held off a fellow Spanish left-hander in Fernando Verdasco on Friday in 5 hours, 14 minutes—the longest match in the tournament's history.

Federer went into the final on straight sets wins over No. 8 Juan Martin del Potro and No. 7 Andy Roddick after having to rally from two sets down to beat Tomas Berdych in the fourth round.

Nadal ranked this title high on his list of six majors.

"Very special, for me," he said. "A dream win here, one Grand Slam on hard court. I worked very hard ... all my life" to improve "outside of clay. Today was really lot of emotions on court. I was there with the best player I ever saw."

Nadal said he'd be trying to break the record for most major titles, whoever holds it. He said he knows how tough it is to win every one.

"You have to be humble," he said.

Federer, for his part, hasn't given up on beating the Sampras record or of beating Nadal, on any surface.

"For sure," he said. "I didn't spend 4 1/2 hours out there (not) believing it."

Federer was struggling with mononucleosis in Australia last year and was knocked out by eventual champion Novak Djokovic in the semifinals. He was hampered early in the season, but turned it around with a title at the U.S. Open.

Facing the No. 1 player for the first time in a major final—he held the top ranking for 237 consecutive weeks and Nadal was knocked out in the semifinals in New York in September—he seemed to be playing catch-up after dropping his opening service game.

He saved two championship points from 15-40 in the eighth game of the fifth set but sent a forehand long on the third match point.

Nadal flopped onto his back, then got up and raced to shake hands. The players put their arms around each other's shoulders at the net as they walked off the court.

Although Federer actually won one more point (174-173), his serve let him down all too frequently. He connected on only 51 percent of his first serves, and it seemed as if all his six double-faults came at critical times.

And as the pressure ratcheted up in the fifth set, it was Federer who wilted, not Nadal. Federer had six winners and 14 unforced errors in the set. Nadal had just two unforced errors and dropped only three points in four service games.

Federer converted only six of his 19 break-point chances; Nadal converted seven of 16.

It was the first Australian Open men's final to go to five sets since Mats Wilander beat Pat Cash in 1988, the first at Melbourne.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	40	9	.816	_
Philadelphia	23	23	.500	15 1/2
New York	21	25	.457	17 1/2
New Jersey	21	27	.438	18 1/2
Toronto	19	30	.388	21
Southeast Division				
Orlando	36	10	.783	_
Atlanta	27	20	.574	9 1/2
Miami	25	21	.543	11
Charlotte	19	28	.404	17 1/2
Washington	10	37	.213	26 1/2
Central Division				
Cleveland	37	9	.804	_
Detroit	25	21	.543	12
Milwaukee	24	27	.471	15 1/2
Chicago	21	27	.438	17
Indiana	19	29	.396	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	32	14	.696	_
New Orleans	28	16	.636	3
Houston	29	19	.604	4
Dallas	27	19	.587	5
Memphis	11	35	.239	21
Northwest Division				
Denver	31	16	.660	_
Portland	29	17	.630	1 1/2
Utah	26	22	.542	5 1/2
Minnesota	16	30	.348	14 1/2
Oklahoma City	11	37	.229	20 1/2
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	37	9	.804	_
Phoenix	25	20	.556	11 1/2
Golden State	15	33	.313	23
Sacramento	11	38	.224	27 1/2
L.A. Clippers	10	37	.213	27 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 113, Toronto 90
Boston 109, Minnesota 101
Cleveland 90, Detroit 80
Sacramento 122, Oklahoma City 118, OT

FBR OPEN SCORES

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP)—Scores Sunday from the FBR Open, a $6 million US PGA Tour event at 7,216-yard par-71 TPC Scottsdale:

Final Round

x-Kenny Perry	72-63-66-69	270
Charley Hoffman	66-68-69-67	270
Kevin Na	67-70-66-68	271
James Nitties	65-69-70-68	272
David Toms	69-68-67-68	272
Ryan Moore	69-67-68-69	273
Matt Kuchar	67-67-70-69	273
Brian Gay	68-68-67-70	273
Scott Piercy	69-67-66-71	273
Cliff Kresge	68-69-68-69	274
Jeff Maggert	70-68-66-70	274
Rod Pampling	72-69-69-65	275
Nick Watney	70-63-72-70	275
Michael Letzig	70-67-69-69	275
Rory Sabbatini	72-65-69-69	275
Zach Johnson	71-66-68-70	275
John Senden	68-70-72-66	276
Parker McLachlin	68-71-69-68	276
D.J. Trahan	68-74-69-65	276
Geoff Ogilvy	70-69-65-72	276
Woody Austin	69-72-69-67	277
Brandt Jobe	72-69-69-67	277
J.J. Henry	69-71-68-69	277
Kevin Sutherland	68-71-69-69	277
Luke Donald	76-65-68-69	278
Jonathan Kaye	68-71-69-70	278
Jonathan Byrd	72-69-67-70	278
Carl Pettersson	71-68-69-70	278
Brendon de Jonge	71-67-69-71	278
Bubba Watson	68-70-69-71	278
Sean O'Hair	69-69-69-71	278
David Berganio, Jr.	66-71-72-70	279
Chad Campbell	70-70-72-67	279
Chris DiMarco	73-69-70-67	279
Jarrod Lyle	71-69-69-71	280
Aaron Baddeley	69-73-66-72	280
Hunter Mahan	73-67-69-71	280
Troy Matteson	70-68-69-73	280
Kevin Streelman	73-69-69-69	280
Rocco Mediate	68-70-67-75	280
Ted Purdy	71-68-65-76	280
Kirk Triplett	70-70-70-71	281
Cameron Beckman	68-67-75-71	281
Bob Tway	71-71-69-70	281
Lucas Glover	65-72-75-69	281
Briny Baird	67-74-72-68	281
Brett Quigley	69-71-75-66	281
Steve Flesch	69-72-68-73	282
Nathan Green	73-69-67-73	282
Jeff Klauk	74-66-72-70	282
Pat Perez	69-73-70-70	282
Mark Wilson	70-72-71-69	282
Scott McCarron	70-72-66-75	283
Steve Elkington	70-69-71-73	283
Vaughn Taylor	69-69-73-72	283
Dudley Hart	71-71-70-71	283
Charlie Wi	73-68-71-72	284
Rickie Fowler	73-66-72-74	285
Fredrik Jacobson	72-65-74-74	285
Gary Woodland	70-71-67-78	286
Jeff Overton	70-72-68-76	286
Ryan Palmer	73-67-68-78	286
John Merrick	72-70-70-74	286
Joe Ogilvie	71-70-73-72	286
Webb Simpson	68-67-77-75	287
Ben Curtis	71-71-74-72	288
Dean Wilson	69-73-76-70	288
Jason Bohn	71-71-74-73	289
Nicholas Thompson	72-68-77-72	289
Brad Adamonis	68-70-75-77	290
John Rollins	71-71-74-74	290

x-won on third hole of playoff

By The Associated Press

Super Bowl fever rocks Saipan

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REPORTERS

Saipan witnessed the Pittsburg Steelers' historic feat Monday, as hundreds of football fans here went to various bars and restaurants to watch Super Bowl XLIII.

Local football fanatics saw Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger connect on a crucial six-yard pass to wide receiver Santonio Holmes deep in the right corner of the end zone with 35 seconds remaining in the game. That lifted the Steelers to a record-setting sixth Super Bowl win, 27-23, over the Arizona Cardinals.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A family enjoys the closing seconds of the Super Bowl XLIII shown at Sanssouci at Palms Resort.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A young boy wants a closer look at Super Bowl XLIII shown live at Palms Resort Saipan yesterday.

Shirley's hosts students, workers

High school and elementary students were among the patrons of Shirley's Coffee Shop, which hosted the Super Bowl for the first time.

Dining supervisor Macoi Aguda said they had between 60-70 people who came to the restaurant for the Super Bowl XLIII.

"It was a great turnout for a first-timer like us," Aguda said.

Mt. Carmel's David and Tom Kautz, Tim Taguchi, and Sean Sablan and Southern High School's John Villagomez arrived at Shirley's as early as 9am to dine and watch the game.

"We don't have classes today (yesterday), so we decided to come here. It was sort of Super Bowl holiday for us," said Taguchi, who along with Tom and Villagomez rooted for the Cardinals.

Sablan and David are Steelers fans with the former deciding to watch the Super Bowl outside the comfort of his friend's home.

"Last year, I watched the game at Tim's house. This year, we went out and it did not cost us that much as we had to play only $7.95 for everything. We enjoyed the food and the game, and got to spend some time with friends." Sablan said.

Shirley's also hosted five students from Saipan International School and the managers of various companies/departments under Tan Holdings, Corp.

SIS' Kennedy and Clayton Isuka, Chris and Alex Park, and Bryan Lee all rooted for the Steelers, as they believed the team was consistent all throughout the season.

At the end of the game, Kennedy had a double celebration, as he won the grand prize for the event, a new cellular phone from Docomo.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan said the Super Bowl served as a team building exercise for the company's managers.

"It's a great way to bring them together and spend a good time watching the biggest show in American sports today," Tan said.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Students from Mt. Carmel School and Saipan Southern High School cheer for the Steelers and Cardinals during yesterday's Super Bowl XLIII shown live at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

With no classes yesterday, these Saipan International School students had the opportunity to watch Super Bowl XLIII at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Managers from various companies/departments under Tan Holdings Co. pose for a group photo after watching Super Bowl XLIII at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Four staff of Pacific Islands Club enjoy a light moment during the halftime break of Super Bowl XLIII at Charley's Cabaret.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Spectators are glued to the projector screen showing Super Bowl XLIII.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A PIC staff performs his version of a touchdown dance during the halftime show.

Ariel Mariano of Tan Holding's legal department said watching the Super Bowl allowed them to mix business with pleasure.

"You get to discuss things about your work and at the same time exchange opinions about the game and the players," Mariano said.

PIC draws 180 fans

Pacific Islands Club's Monday Gridiron at Charley's Cabaret attracted around 180 fans, according to F&B manager Steve Balakrisna.

"It was bigger than last year," he said. "Despite the economic crisis, PIC continues to host the Super Bowl, as our way of giving back what's due to the community, especially to sports fans."

Fans who came to PIC paid only $20 for a breakfast buffet and various side shows from PIC's cheering squad. The host gave away raffle prizes from Pacific Trading, Co. and Docomo.

As a bonus, at halftime fans were treated to a snack (burger made from Angus beef meat) courtesy of Triple J.

"We've been coming to PIC for the past several years because we like watching Super Bowl with a big crowd. It's much exciting than watching at home," said Becky Cruz, who came with husband Kin.

Palms Resort expecting better turnout next year

Palms Resort Saipan's Valerie Camacho said about 40 came at Sanssouci and PauPau Beach to watch the Cardinals-Steelers tiff.

"We were expecting more, but maybe because of our location, people opted to drop by to places near their work or home. But still, we were happy to host the Super Bowl for the first time. We hope to have a bigger and better one next year," Camacho said.

Fans who trooped to Palms enjoyed breakfast and lunch buffet while watching the Super Bowl for only $25. They also went home with caps and T-shirts from PTC.

Full house at Godfather's Bar

Godfather's Bar had a full house for the Super Bowl XLIII. Proprietor Ron Biggers reported more than 80 people watched the game at the Garapan watering hole and sports bar.

Biggers said it was a huge success.

For $20, football fans enjoyed breakfast and Budweiser products that they can drink until the game was over.

Biggers said the crowd was 50/50 for both teams.

MARPAC representative Leonard Leon said the crowd was all excited.

"We had a good crowd and a good game here," Leon said.

Bigwigs at Hard Rock Café

Hard Rock Café Saipan attracted some 100 patrons, among them was Department of Commerce Secretary Michael Ada.

Assistant general manager Aldwin Culiat said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reserved a seat but could not make it.

It was the first time Hard Rock set-up a Super Bowl party. The crowd availed of the $12 breakfast with refillable coffee with Budweiser beer costing a mere $3 a pop.

One of the viewers, Reynaldo Susulin, said he came with his friends and they were all rooting for the Steelers.

MARPAC marketing manager Jojo Camacho said overall it was a great success.

"We're very happy with the crowd. People are still coming in," Camacho said during the halftime break.

Merchant marine invades Bud's Bar

At Bud's Bar, manager/owner Les Jackson said all those who watched were merchant marines.

"We had 11 people but this was better than last year. We offered free food and free drinks because it is a way of giving back to the community and we hope to do it again next year," Jackson said.

Most of them rooted for the Steelers, including Rick Crumpton of USNS *Safeguard*.

"This is the only football game I watched for the whole year. I have been in the ship for six months. I had no chance and now it's the Super Bowl," Crumpton said.

He said it was so wonderful to watch the game on a beautiful island like Saipan. "Bud's Bar is the best place in this island to watch the game," he said.

Smaller crowds at Fiesta Resort, Oleai Beach Bar

Fiesta Resort and Spa's public relations officer Elena Soll said in contrast from last year when they had a full house, only 15 people watched the Super Bowl at Chambre Bar yesterday.

Retired PSS teacher Gus Flores, who was rooting for the Cardinals, said the food complemented well with the great game.

With a cost of $15, viewers enjoyed breakfast and lunch with beer and other giveaway from Miller Lite.

Over at Oleai Beach Bar and Grill, manager Mara Lambon also reported a sparse crowd of between 30 to 40 people.

MARPAC's representative Frank Matsunaga said the smaller crowd this year perhaps had something to do with the economic crises.

Super Bowl fever rocks Saipan

Saipan witnessed the Pittsburg Steelers' historic feat Monday, as hundreds of football fans here went to various bars and restaurants to watch Super Bowl XLIII. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Perry beats Hoffman in FBR Open playoff

After the first two playoff holes, neither Kenny Perry nor Charley Hoffman looked capable of winning the FBR Open. 24

Steelers rally to beat Cardinals

AP

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Santonio Holmes (10) , Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7), Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin and team owner Daniel M. Rooney celebrate the Pittsburgh Steelers defeating the Arizona Cardinals 27-23 in the NFL Super Bowl XLIII football game, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, in Tampa, Fla.

Pittsburgh wins record sixth Super Bowl

By BARRY WILNER
AP FOOTBALL WRITER

Their Steel Curtain shredded, Ben Roethlisberger and the Pittsburgh offense ended a Super Bowl of incredible swings with a final-minute touchdown for a historic victory.

Santonio Holmes made a brilliant 6-yard catch deep in the right corner of the end zone with 35 seconds remaining Sunday night,

See STEELERS on Page 26

Nadal ousts shaken Federer in 5 sets in Australia

By JOHN PYE
AP SPORTS WRITER

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Roger Federer had nowhere to hide.

Rod Laver was about to present the cup to Australian Open champion Rafael Nadal. Federer stood on the court, having just missed his first chance to equal Pete Sampras' record 14 Grand Slam singles titles.

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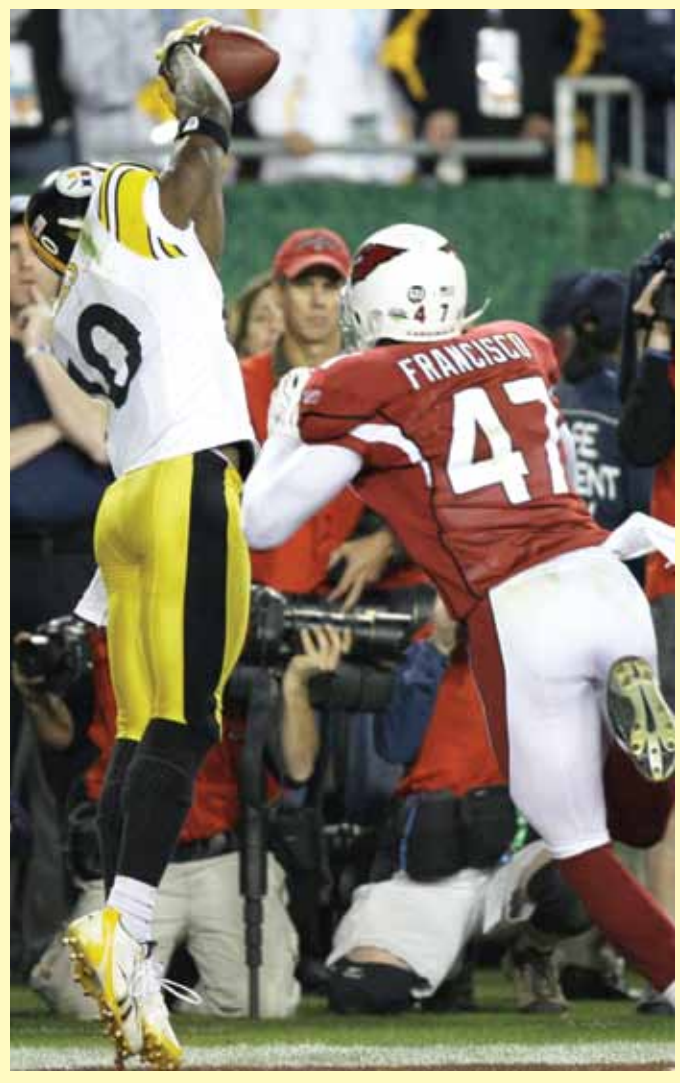
Spain's Rafael Nadal holds the trophy during the awarding ceremony after beating Switzerland's Roger Federer during the Men's singles final match at the Australian Open Tennis Championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009.

AP

Holmes goes from drug dealer to Super Bowl MVP



By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—He once sold drugs on a street corner. Now he's MVP of a most remarkable Super Bowl.

Santonio Holmes, who overcame his gritty childhood in rural south Florida, made a brilliant catch with 35 seconds left to give the Pittsburgh Steelers their record sixth Super Bowl title, a 27-23 victory over the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday night.

After a pass to the left corner went through Holmes' hands, Ben Roethlisberger lofted the ball toward the right corner, over the hands of not one, not two, but three Arizona defenders. Holmes leaped to get it—and somehow managed to drag both feet in bounds, his

See HOLMES on Page 26

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Santonio Holmes hauls in a 6-yard touchdown reception past Arizona Cardinals safety Aaron Francisco in the fourth quarter of the NFL Super Bowl XLIII football game, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, in Tampa, Fla.

AP